

MEND submission to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) 2014 Hate Crime Report:

# Anti-Muslim Hate Crime 2014



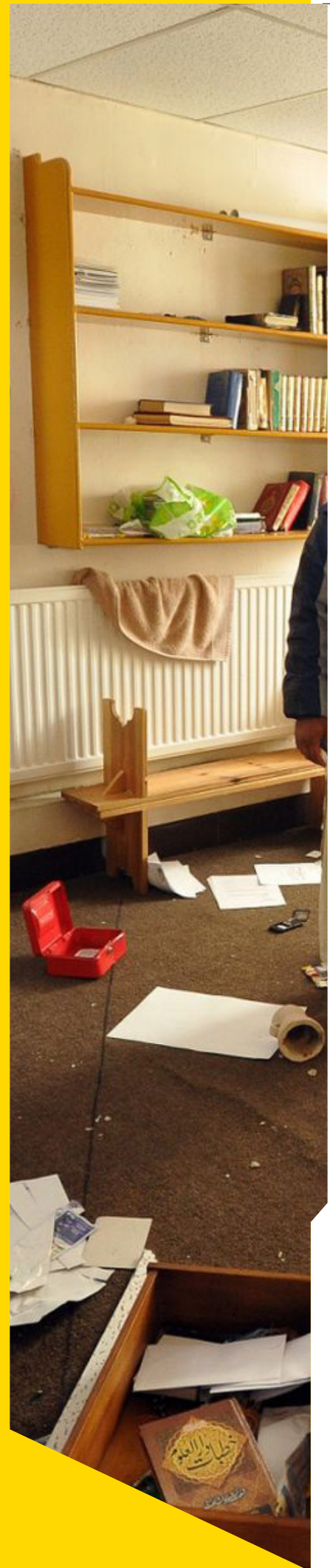
Muslim engagement & development

mend

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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.mend.org.uk/advocacy](http://www.mend.org.uk/advocacy).

These incidents are presented under the following categories:

1. Assaults or attacks on persons of Muslim background, or persons perceived to be of Muslim background
2. Attacks on 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. Where incidents fall across categories they have been categorised, wherever possible, according to the primary criminal charges brought.

The murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby in 2013 led to an escalation in attacks against Muslims, particularly places of worship.

View Online:

[http://mend.org.uk/hatecrimes\\_cats/2014/](http://mend.org.uk/hatecrimes_cats/2014/)



A total of 152 incidents are outlined in this report, 21 of which relate to incidents occurring in 2013.

Where incidents occurred in 2013 but were prosecuted in 2014, these have been annotated with the incident reference from our 2013 submission, where relevant.

The 131 incidents occurring in 2014 logged in this report suggest anti-Muslim hate crime remains a serious problem. The number of incidents involving assaults or attacks on persons of Muslim, or perceived Muslim, background is up on the previous year; from 24 to 38 incidents. Attacks on property or institutions is down from 65 to 33 and incidents of verbal abuse show a small drop from 61 to 60. The proportion of the different types of hate crime is changed on the previous year with incidents involving assaults or attacks on persons of Muslim, or perceived Muslim, background up from 16 to **29 per cent**; attacks on property or institutions down from 43.3 to **25 per cent** and incidents of verbal abuse up from 40.7 to **46 per cent**.

It is important to reiterate that our documentation relies exclusively on reports in local and/or national media and websites dedicated to documenting anti-Muslim hate crime and Islamophobia and is therefore neither an exhaustive nor a comprehensive review of anti-Muslim hate crime in the UK in 2014. The actual figures for anti-Muslim hate crimes in the UK for 2014 is suspected to be far greater.

Official statistics on racial and religious hate crimes in 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 are detailed below in the section on Recording hate crime.

With continuing concerns over the low level of official recording 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 hostility, what we present here is a mere fraction of all anti-Muslim hate crimes occurring in the UK in 2014. With the decline in local media and court reporting, press reports on the prosecution of cases involving hate crime offences are less readily available and this is reflected in the number of cases we have been able to identify in local and national newspaper reports.

As in the previous year, other developments at home and abroad have had a bearing on instances of anti Muslim hate crime.

The murders of western journalists Steven Sotloff, James Foley and British citizen, Alan Henning, by the terrorist group IS or Daesh, has been one of a number of factors influencing security and civil liberties discourse in the UK with direct relevance to Muslim communities. Security narratives continue to dominate political and media discourse about Islam and Muslims in the UK.

The incursion by Israel into Gaza in the summer of 2014 is another example of international events affecting public discourse and anti-Muslim prejudice. The example of Israel's embassy in Ireland posting offensive images on Twitter of European landmarks eclipsed by Islamic symbols and bearing the slogan "Israel First, Paris next..." etc is indicative of this as was the vicious assault on former Bradford West MP, George Galloway, in August 2014, for his pro-Palestinian views.

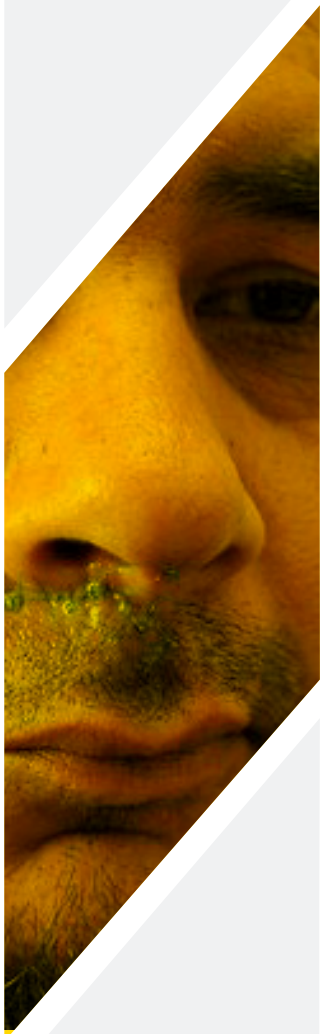
On the home front, investigations into a 'takeover' plot in a small number of Birmingham schools, the so called 'Trojan Horse plot',

has had a massive impact beyond issues of school governance and local council oversight procedures. The scandal and a succession of reports investigating allegations of a 'takeover plot' amid claims of 'extremism and radicalisation' in the schools has been reinforced by Government ministers in justification of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism legislation further encroaching on civil and political rights in general and Muslim civil liberties in particular. The report by the parliamentary select committee on Education which found no evidence of a takeover plot, nor evidence that pupils were vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism in the affected Birmingham schools, has not deterred exploitation of the allegations amid fulsome media coverage of the events.

A report of a very different nature, by Professor Alexis Jay into the horror of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham and the failures of council and other statutory agencies to protect vulnerable girls from grooming and child sexual exploitation further infected the tenor of public debate with considerable coverage in the media of the ethnic and religious identities of some of the perpetrators. As in 2013, legal cases on sex grooming and child exploitation have continued to play a role in public discourse on or about Muslims with media coverage persisting in 2014 following on from Jay's report and a number of high profile prosecutions over the year.

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. The section on anti-Muslim public discourse also includes media commentary which serves to reinforce negative stereotypes of Muslims. Section four details how these statements or media representations can, and are, used by far right parties and extremists to deride Islamic beliefs and practices and create an environment in which Muslims are made more vulnerable to hate crime. We have this year included a chart on the number of far right protests that have occurred in the UK in 2014. The chart shows an average of one far right protest a week over the year.

Religious practices have made headlines again this year with halal meat and veiling making news. Food labelling, the use of halal meat by high street restaurant chains and the



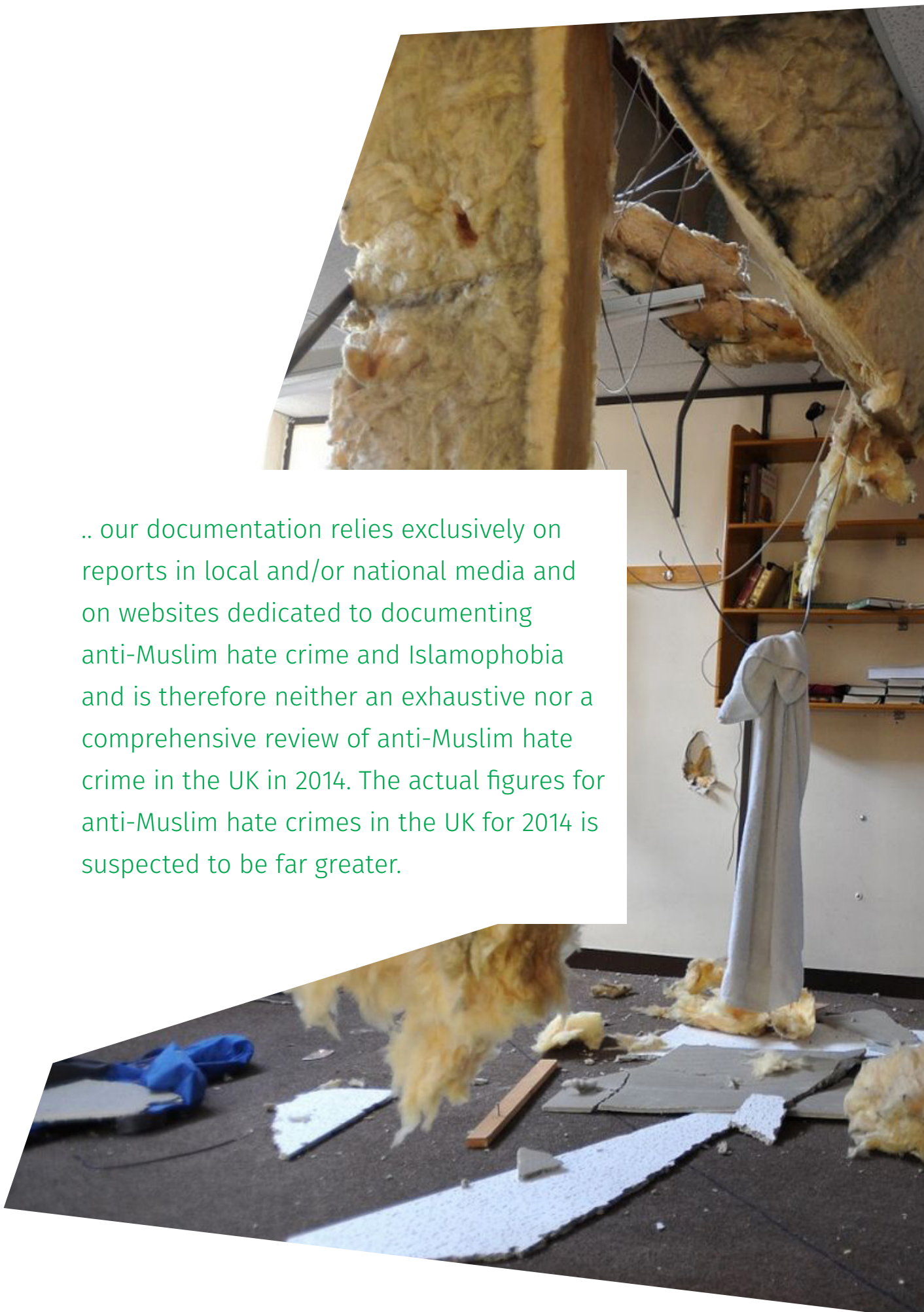
ruling by the European Court on Human Rights upholding the French veil ban in public places have contributed to widespread media coverage of these issues. Public petitions on the banning of religious slaughter and on banning face veils in the UK suggest efforts to galvanise public support against the rights of religious minorities. These subjects too are covered in the section on anti-Muslim public discourse.

The European Parliament (EP) and local elections in May 2014, and the strong showing of the UK Independence Party, raised again issues around the dissemination of anti-Muslim election material and anti-Muslim speech in social media communications by individuals contesting public office. A number of smaller far right parties also contested the EP elections with at least two of these evincing a staunch anti-Muslim platform in their campaigning; Britain First and Liberty GB. Other cases, including the Electoral Commission's failure to prevent Britain First exploiting the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby for electoral gain, are dealt with in the section on anti-Muslim public discourse.

A final section concludes with positive developments of which there have been many in the past year. These offer good signs for the tackling of anti-Muslim hate crime and hate speech in the future. The commitment of police forces across England and Wales to raise awareness about hate crime reporting during National Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2014; the publication of Hate Crime strategies by the Welsh Assembly and the Mayor of London's Office for Crime and Policing; and the revision of guidance on hate crime by the College of Policing, are just some examples of the great being work done by public bodies to challenge Islamophobia and other forms of hate crime.

**1.5**

*Javad Iqbal, 48, was assaulted after dropping off a fare in Rochdale in the early hours. He was stabbed in the face and his car was subsequently damaged during the incident. Iqbal needed medical attention and was administered six stitches on the face as a result of a deep cut.*



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## Recording Hate Crime

Studies show an endemic under-reporting of hate crime with victims often regarding hate crimes as too minor, or occurring too frequently, to bother reporting them to the police. A study published by Leicester University's Hate Crime Project underscores the seriousness of under-reporting of hate crime and the under-utilisation of Third Party Reporting centres by hate crime victims.<sup>1</sup>

Research also shows a high level of misunderstanding among victims of what constitutes a hate crime. Public order offences for example are not always identified by victims as offences which can and should be reported to the police.

Figures published by the Home Office in December 2013 show that 40% of hate crimes in the period 2012/13 came to the attention of police while the level of reporting to the police has declined from 51% in the combined crime surveys of 2007/08 and 2008/09. The report further notes that 43% of hate crimes in the Crime Survey for England and Wales in the period 2010/11 and 2011/12 were not reported to police.<sup>2</sup>

The Home Office report on Hate Crime in England and Wales between April 2013 and March 2014 shows<sup>3</sup>:

- 75% of the increase in overall hate crime was racially or religiously motivated hate crime accounting for three quarters of all hate crimes reported to police forces in England and Wales over the period.
- A 45% increase in religious hate crimes over the period.
- Public order offences and violence against a person were the two most common offences associated with hate crime for all strands except religion. Public order offences amounted to 60% of race hate crimes.
- For religious hate crime, public order offences were the most common (46%) followed by more serious criminal activities such as criminal damage and arson (25%).

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending December 2014, published by the Office for National Statistics, found an 18% increase in racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress offences to the year ending December 2014.<sup>4</sup>

Other data from the CSEW to the year ending December 2014 shows:

- 5% increase in racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury
- 26% increase in racially or religiously aggravated harassment
- 16% increase in racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury
- 4% decrease in racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage

Accurate recording of anti-Muslim hate crime is stymied by the lack of consistency in police recording systems. The Metropolitan Police Service, West Midlands Police and Greater Manchester Police are three forces which record Islamophobia as a separate category of crime. From our own efforts to push for uniformity, further forces are committing to recording Islamophobia as a separate category of crime, such as Bedfordshire.

Despite persistent under-reporting, figures published by the police forces in the Home Office's annual report on Hate Crime in England and Wales 2013/2014 and figures released under Freedom of Information shows that race and religious hate crimes continue to account for the overwhelming majority of recorded hate crime.

1. Garland, J., Chakraborti, N. and S-J, Hardy. (2014). The Leicester Hate Crime Project. University of Leicester.

2. Home Office (2013). *An Overview of Hate Crime in England and Wales*.

3. Byron Creese and Deborah Lader. (2014). *Hate Crimes, England and Wales, 2013/14*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 16 October 2014

4. Office for National Statistics. Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), 23 April 2015.



Deriving accurate statistics in relation to anti-Muslim hate crime is a difficulty compounded by the crime labels applied to anti-Muslim incidents. From our documentation of anti-Muslim hate crime incidents in this and previous OSCE reports, a significant proportion of these were labelled and prosecuted as 'race' hate crimes. A count of anti-Muslim hate crime incidents derived solely from disaggregation of religious hate crime data would therefore be insufficient to capture the whole.

Furthermore, police forces may also apply 'multiple labels' to anti-Muslim hate crime, labelling these in the police recorded crime system as both racial and religious. Any disaggregation of the data would therefore need to account for the possibility of double counting. Summing up disaggregated data on racial and religious hate crimes would unnecessarily cause inflation in the total numbers. Forces which have responded to our FOIs to highlight the possibility of dual flags applying are Metropolitan Police Service, Devon and Cornwall police, Sussex police and Surrey police.

As far as disaggregating data is possible, we have sought from police force areas information about race hate crimes where the victims' identity was self-reported as Pakistani or Bangladeshi in order to derive data on anti-Muslim hate crime based on ethnic markers as a proxy measure. We further sought disaggregation of religious hate crime data to derive the number of offences in which victims self-reported a 'Muslim' identity or the offences labelled as Islamophobic.

This method is insufficient to collect data on, for example, Muslim victims who may be of white British, other White, Mixed race or Black African descent. Indeed, the 2011 census notes that British Muslims are the most ethnically diverse of all religious groups in the UK.

The figures are also affected by the level of disaggregation that is possible. Some police force areas have not disaggregated race hate crime by victim ethnicity (for example, Cleveland and Hampshire), others are not able to disaggregate religious hate crime by victim's religious identity (for example, Hampshire).

Secondly, deriving information on anti-Muslim hate crime based on ethnic proxies does not allow for the exclusion of intra-racial hate crime, for example, a race hate crime committed by a Pakistani on a Bangladeshi victim. Discounting intra-racial hate crime would require further exploration of police recorded crime data. This has not been done here for reasons of time. The possibility of investigating police recorded data in this manner has also yet to be properly explored.

A important point on policy development in this area, and consistent with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency's recent initiatives, is the necessity for prioritising a victim centred approach to hate crime. We have first hand accounts of offences being reported to police as 'Islamophobic' but being prosecuted as 'racially aggravated'. Law enforcement agencies and the prosecution service are still more likely to identify anti-Muslim hate crime offences as racial than religious. How hate crimes are labelled based on victim perception and how victims are represented in the criminal justice system are still issues that require attention from the authorities.

By seeking to derive disaggregated data on anti-Muslim hate crime from extant recording processes and identifying the difficulties and limitations in deriving an accurate count, we hope we can highlight some of the problems that obstruct the ability to gauge accurately the count of anti-Muslim hate crime.

Tables from the Home Office annual reports on racial and religious hate crime are presented below:

Figure 1 shows the number of race hate crimes occurring in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 by police force area (excluding British Transport Police and Police Service Northern Ireland).

Figure 2 shows the number of religious hate crimes occurring in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 by police force area (excluding British Transport Police and Police Service Northern Ireland).

Figure 3 shows racially and religiously aggravated offences by police force area in 2014/15 (excluding British Transport Police and Police Service Northern Ireland).

Figure 1 Race hate crimes occurring in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 by police force area

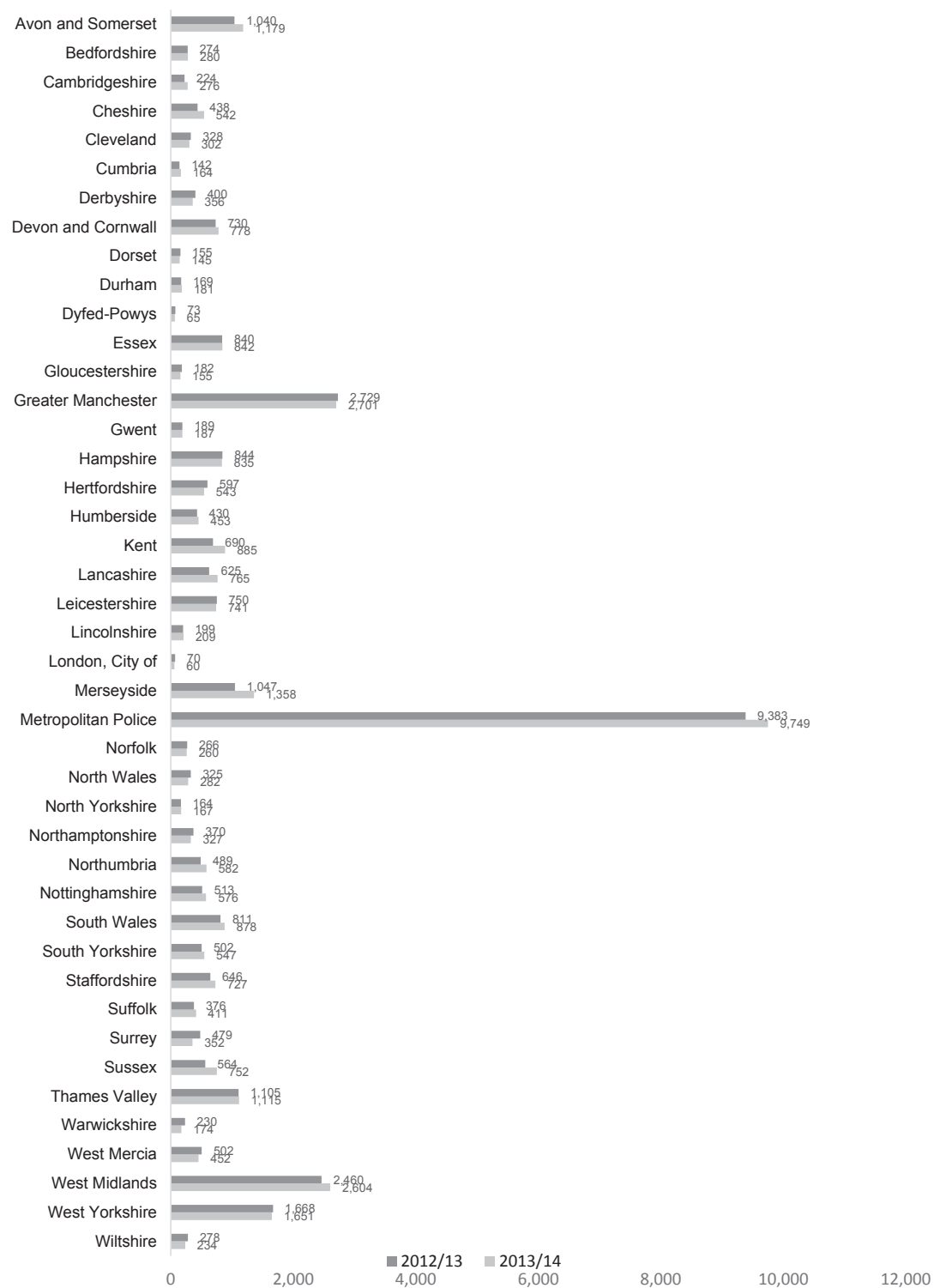


Figure 2 Religious hate crimes occurring in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 by police force area

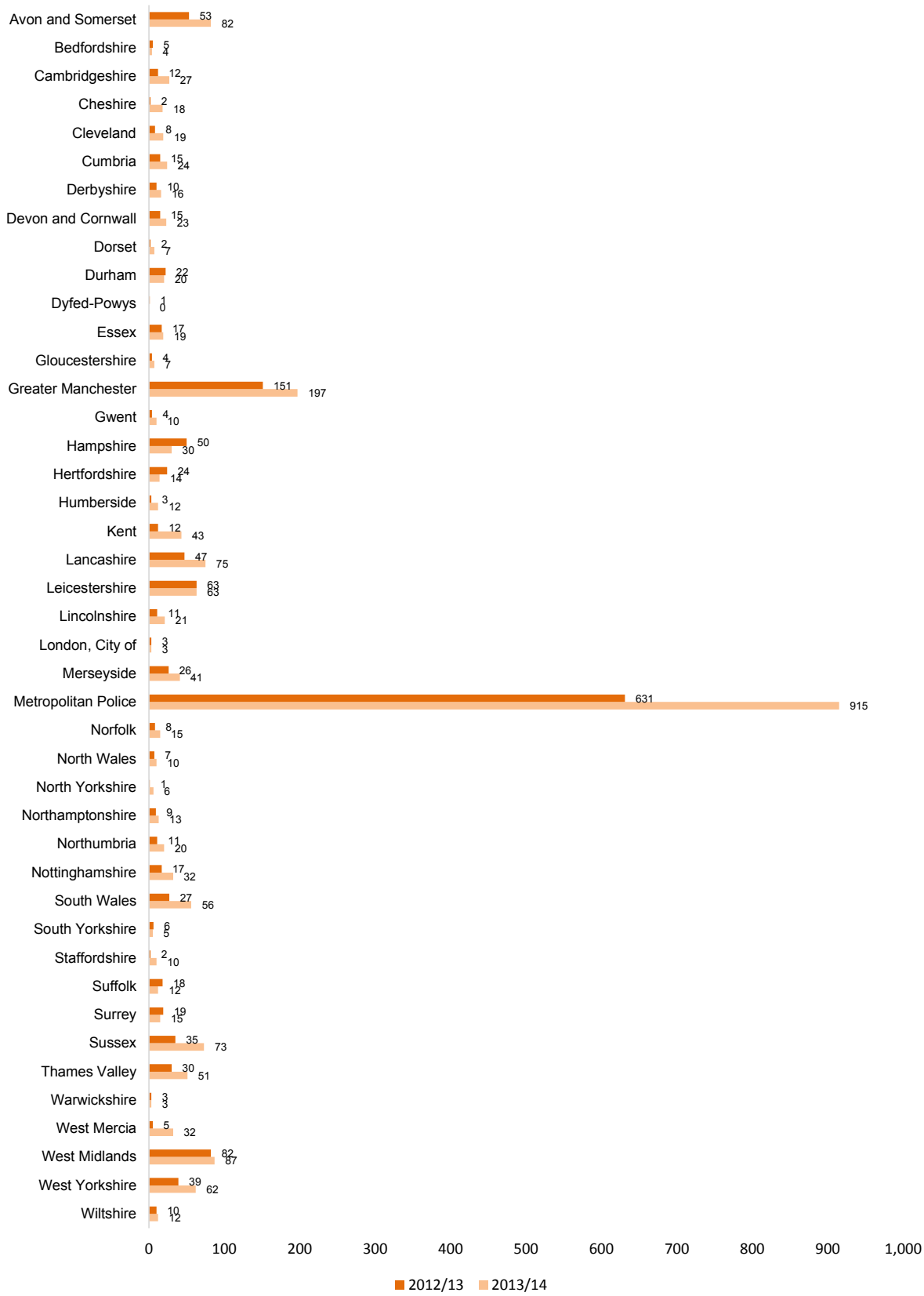
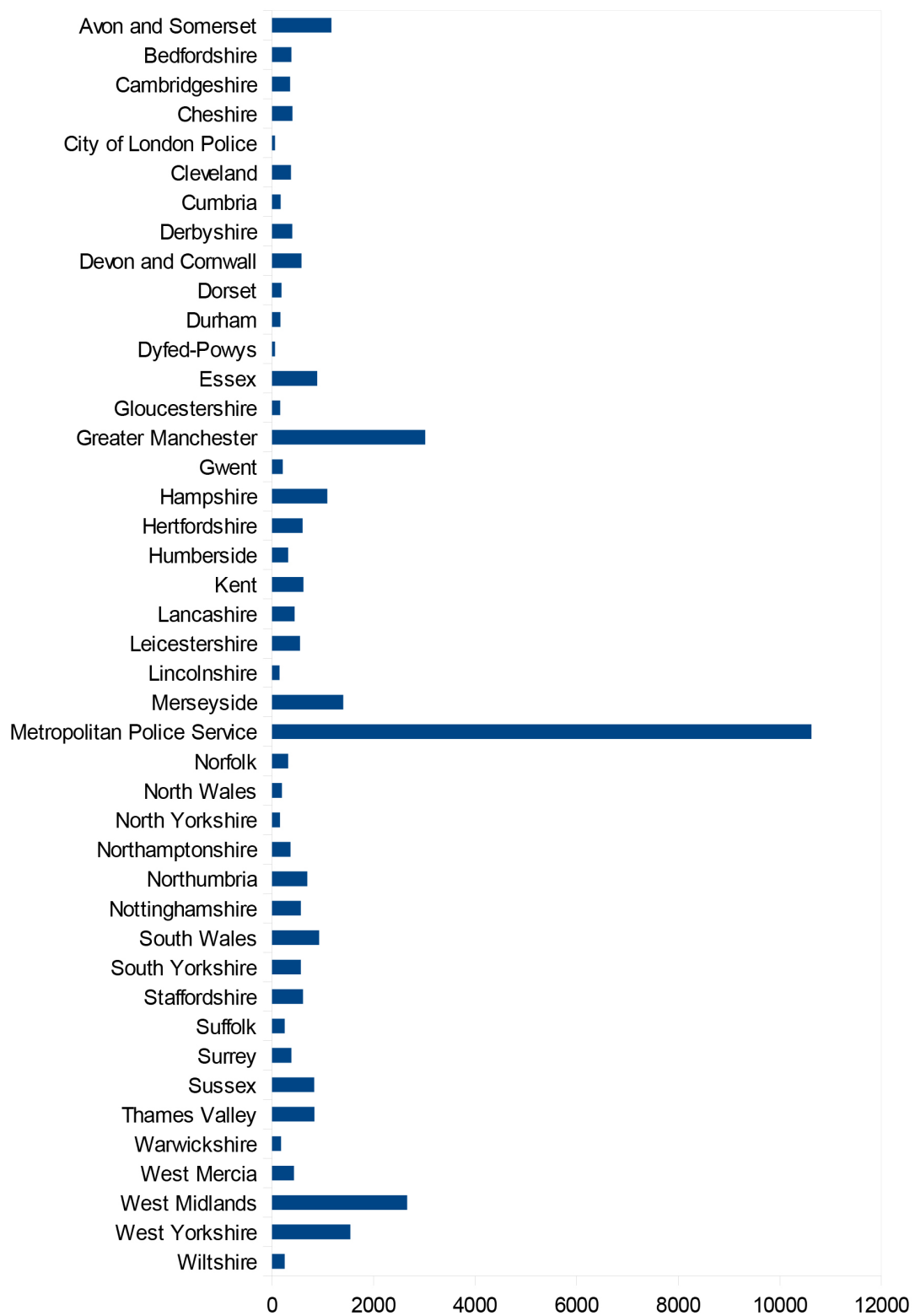


Figure 3 Number of racially and religiously aggravated offences by police force area in 2014/15<sup>5</sup>

5. Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2014 to 2015, published by the Home Office, 9 September 2015.



## 2.30

A man phoned the police and said he was going to put a bomb in a mosque and wanted “to see Muslims hanging in the street”.

## 1.32

Pakistani men were driven out of Belfast by racial hatred

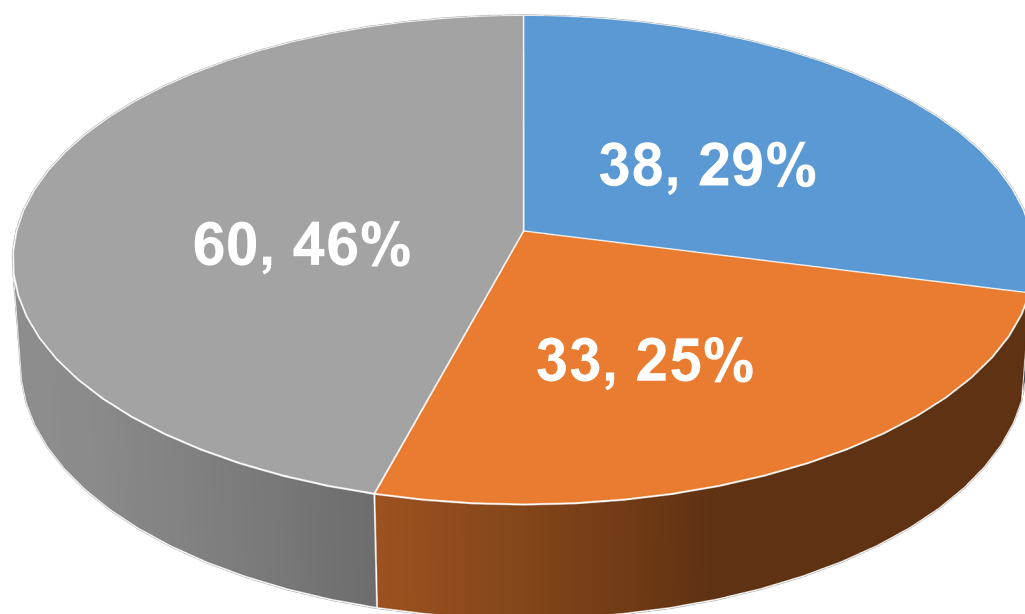


# Incidents of anti-Muslim hate crime in the UK

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

This report covers 152 incidents of anti-Muslim hate crime in the United Kingdom. Of these, 131 incidents occurred in 2014.

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.



- Assaults or attacks on persons of Muslim, or perceived Muslim, background
- Attacks on Muslim property or institutions
- Verbal abuse

# 1. Assaults or attacks on persons of Muslim background

- 1.1 A 36-year-old Muslim woman, Hasina Khan, was assaulted in Cabot Circus, Bristol, as she made her way to work on 21 July 2014.

A man shouted verbal abuse at Khan about 'Muslims killing Christians in the Middle East' and spat at her twice, leaving saliva on her hijab and left hand.<sup>6</sup>

CCTV cameras picked up the incident and the police released images of the man they wished to question.<sup>7</sup>

Jack Hughes, 26, was arrested and pleaded guilty to racially or religiously aggravated common assault at Bristol Magistrates' Court in December 2014. Hughes was sentenced to 120 hours of community service and ordered to pay £250 in compensation and £85 in costs.<sup>8</sup>

- 1.2 A Muslim woman and her child were subjected to racial abuse and had beer thrown over them as they walked down a street in Berkeley View, Harehills, on 5 July 2014.<sup>9</sup>

Police were called to the scene after neighbours saw a man waving a butcher's knife as children stood close by.

Kravier Freeman, 31, was arrested and police seized the weapon.

Leeds Crown Court heard how he called the victim, a White British Muslim convert, a "Muslim b\*tch" and said "Why are you with a p\*\*\*? Why are you wearing those clothes? You are not a Muslim!"

When asked by the victim why he was acting so aggressively, Freeman said "Because I hate Muslims." He added: "Watch what I am going to do when your husband comes out."

Freeman pleaded guilty to racially aggravated assault, affray and possession of a bladed weapon in a public place and was given a 12 month jail sentence.

- 1.3 A Muslim security guard was racially abused by a newly-wed couple outside Manchester Deansgate's Hilton hotel on 31 May 2014.<sup>10</sup>

Kirsty and Nick Bigland began arguing with hotel staff after their credit card was refused and they were asked to leave the hotel after swearing at reception staff.

Outside the hotel, Ms Bigland is said to have racially abused security guard, Mustapha Muhssen, before spitting at him, punching him and kicking him.

The couple were arrested on the scene. Ms Bigland was charged with racially aggravated assault and two further public order offences and Mr Bigland was charged with a public order offence.

Ms Bigland initially denied racially aggravated assault, but later pleaded guilty. Prosecutors did not press the public order charges.

Her husband pleaded guilty to a public order offence at an earlier hearing, but failed to attend Manchester Magistrates Court on 9 December 2014 for the sentencing hearing.<sup>11</sup>

Kirsty Bigland received a 20 week jail sentence, suspended for 12 months, and was ordered to complete 150 hours of unpaid work. She was ordered to pay £150 compensation to Mr Muhssen.

- 1.4 A Muslim woman's face veil was pulled off her face during an attack outside a supermarket store

6. *Bristol Post*, 31 July 2014

7. *Bristol Post*, 28 July 2014

8. *BBC News*, 11 December 2014

9. *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 6 December 2014

10. *Manchester Evening News*, 11 November 2014

11. *Manchester Evening News*, 9 December 2014



in Glasgow on 25 November 2013.<sup>12</sup>

Emiliano Sanchez, 59, racially abused Shirin Akhter before ripping off her face veil outside a Lidl store. He then entered the store telling one of the store's staff, "Did you see that p\*\*\*? I told her to take that thing off her head."<sup>13</sup>

Police were alerted, but initially Sanchez could not be found. Police later found the suspect after his wife visited the same Lidl store and told a staff member that the couple lived in the nearby Drygate area.

Sanchez admitted racially aggravated harassment and acting in a racially aggravated manner. He was given a community sentence of 250 hours unpaid work at Glasgow Sherriff Court on 31 October 2014.<sup>14</sup>

Ms Akhter, in an interview with Scottish daily newspaper, the Daily Record, said Sanchez had said to her "Why are you wearing this? This is not the Qur'an and is not allowed in this country." She criticised the non-custodial sentence passed saying "He should have been sent to jail. The fact that he wasn't sends out the wrong message to people."<sup>15</sup>

- 1.5** An Asian taxi driver was stabbed in the face in a race hate attack in Rochdale on 26 October 2014.<sup>16</sup>

Javad Iqbal needed hospital treatment after the assault, which took place after he dropped customers in the town centre around 2am. He was stabbed in the face and required six stitches as a result of a deep cut. His car was also damaged during the incident.

Ryan Lovell, 23, was charged with committing grievous bodily harm with intent, possessing a bladed article in a public place, criminal damage and racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage in connection with the incident. He was remanded in custody when he appeared before magistrates and was due to appear at Minshull Street Crown Court in October 2014.

No further information is available in connection with the incident.

- 1.6** Two boys, aged 8 and 10, were racially abused when walking home from their local mosque on 15 October 2014.<sup>17</sup>

They were dressed in traditional clothing when they heard someone in a car shout racist abuse at them. A pot noodle tub was thrown out of the car window and hit one boy on the head.

Luke Croft, aged 18, was arrested and appeared at Blackburn magistrates' court where he pleaded guilty to racially aggravated assault and was sentenced to 20 weeks' imprisonment.

- 1.7** Two prisoners had their prison sentences lengthened after being found guilty of sending explosive devices to Asian solicitors from their cells in Full Sutton Prison.<sup>18</sup>

Bret Atkins, 24, and Jamie Snow, 27, sent threatening letters and letter bombs to law firms in Halifax and Nottingham. The explosive devices were intercepted before reaching the firm Rahman Ravelli solicitors in Halifax.

In one letter sent by Snow, he signed off with the words "your neighbourhood Muslim-killer".

The prosecution told the court that the men had a "shared racial hatred" of Asian people daubing threats against Muslims on the walls of their prison cells with excrement. The pair had also made a bet among themselves on who could kill the Imam at Full Sutton Prison first.

Atkins had his 20-year prison sentence for murder increased by seven years after he was found guilty of conspiracy to send an explosive substance with intent to burn at Leeds Crown Court on 4 September 2014.

12. MEND OSCE Submission (2014) - incident reference 1.24

13. *BBC News*, 31 October 2014

14. *BBC News*, 31 October 2014

15. *Daily Record*, 1 November 2014

16. *Manchester Evening News*, 29 October 2014

17. *Lancashire Telegraph*, 15 October 2014

18. *Hull Daily Mail*, 6 September 2014

Snow, 27, who made the explosives, received a further sentence of six years and three months.<sup>19</sup>

- 1.8** An investment banker launched a tirade of racial abuse at a woman on an inter-city train on 28 August 2014.<sup>20</sup>

As the train pulled into Linlithgow station at approximately 11pm, Ms Fella Hammach was struck from behind by a man before he began shouting racist abuse at her.

Neil Docherty, 43, of Linlithgow, West Lothian said: "Go back to your own f\*\*\*\*\*g country. Muslim men are raping women."

A female passenger who urged Docherty to stop was told: "It'll be a different story when they take over the world and you're all wearing burkhas!"

Police used CCTV camera footage and a mobile phone photo taken by a witness to find the perpetrator.

Docherty was arrested and pleaded guilty to assaulting Hammach, 33, on board a Glasgow Queen Street to Edinburgh train. He also pleaded guilty to acting in a racially aggravated manner.

No further information is available in relation to the sentencing in connection with this incident.

- 1.9** Nahid Almana, a Saudi Arabian student at the University of Essex, was murdered on 17 June 2014 on the Salary Brook Trail in Colchester as she walked from her student accommodation in Woodrow Way to a university building in Wivenhoe.<sup>21</sup>

A post-mortem examination revealed that the cause of death were two fatal knife wounds. She received 14 other stab wounds to her body, neck, head and arms.<sup>22</sup>

Essex Police said one of the main lines of enquiry was the possibility of hate crime as Ms Almana was wearing Islamic dress.<sup>23</sup>

In May 2015, a 16-year-old was arrested on the same path in Colchester where Ms Almana was murdered on suspicion of carrying an offensive weapon and was later charged with Ms Almana's murder and the murder of a father-of-five, James Attfield, in Colchester 3 months prior. Attfield had been stabbed over 100 times.<sup>24</sup>

The youth appeared at Colchester Magistrates' Court on 30 May 2015 on two counts of murder and one count of possessing an offensive weapon and was remanded in custody to appear at Chelmsford Crown Court. A hearing was held on 13 July 2015, but no plea was entered.<sup>25</sup>

The defendant, who is being held at Feltham Young Offenders Institution, was remanded in custody. A further plea and case management hearing has been listed before the same judge at Southwark Crown Court on October 9 2015. A provisional trial date has been set for 2 November 2015 at Chelmsford Crown Court.

It is not clear whether racial or religiously aggravated elements are included in the prosecution's case.

- 1.10** A teenager from Uxbridge assaulted a 79-year-old pensioner in a brutal racist attack that left the victim with serious wounds.<sup>26</sup>

Fraser Danny Giles, 17, punched and kicked the elderly Muslim man who was wearing traditional Muslim dress and on his way to Cowley Mill Road mosque on 5 July 2013.<sup>27</sup>

19. *BBC News*, 4 September 2014

20. *Daily Mirror*, 14 October 2014

21. *Essex Police*, November 2014

[available at: [http://www.essex.police.uk/news\\_features/features\\_archive/2014/june\\_2014/murder\\_of\\_nahid\\_almana\\_colch.aspx](http://www.essex.police.uk/news_features/features_archive/2014/june_2014/murder_of_nahid_almana_colch.aspx)]

22. *Daily Mail*, 29 May 2015

23. *The Guardian*, 18 June 2014

24. *Daily Mirror*, 29 May 2015

25. *East Anglian Daily Times*, 13 July 2015

26. MEND OSCE Submission (2014) - incident reference 1.11

27. *London Evening Standard*, 13 December 2013.

Giles first confronted the man, who suffers from a condition affecting the pigmentation of his skin, asking him: “Are you a white Muslim?” before leaving him hospital-bound for 12 days with severe injuries.

The man suffered a skull fracture and bruising to the brain which have affected his cognitive abilities and speech.

Giles was given eight years’ detention in a young offenders’ institution for inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent, at Isleworth Crown Court in December 2013.

At London’s Appeal Court in June 2014 three judges upheld a sentence challenge by Giles and reduced his custodial term by a quarter to six years after ruling his initial sentence excessive.<sup>28</sup>

- 1.11** Two police constables allegedly attacked a severely autistic Muslim man in Luton on the morning of 20 February 2014.<sup>29</sup>

Faruk Ali, 33, was watching rubbish collectors outside of his home when the officers, PC Christopher Thomas and PC Christopher Pitts, are alleged to have chased him in their car.

PC Thomas is said to have then exited the car, grabbed Ali and punched him in the face. As Ali tried to enter his home, he was punched again in the hallway.

Thomas and Pitts both faced charges of perverting the course of justice and misconduct in public office. Thomas also faced a charge of racially aggravated assault against Ali.

At Aylesbury Magistrates’ Court on 1 September 2014 both officers were found not guilty of misconduct in a public office and not guilty of perverting the course of justice. PC Thomas was cleared of racially aggravated assault and cleared of a lesser charge of common assault.<sup>30</sup>

An investigation into the incident by the Independent Police Complaints Commission is ongoing.

- 1.12** A group responsible for a racist attack on staff at a Cambridge restaurant on 6 June 2013, in the wake of the Lee Rigby murder, were sentenced in February 2014.

The five males chanted “EDL” as they threw glass bottles and bins outside Mai Thai restaurant and chased, racially abused and assaulted restaurant staff. They shouted racist abuse at two staff members who were brothers, before physically attacking them.

Their sentencing took place at Cambridge Crown Court where Joshua Collinson-Prime, 19, William Jacey, 21, and a 17-year-old male, who cannot be named for legal reasons, all admitted violent disorder.

Leon Jackson, 24, and Daniel Mooney, 20, pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of racially aggravated threatening behaviour.

Jacey was given a 12-month jail sentence, Collinson-Prime was sentenced to 12 months at a youth offenders’ institution and the 17 year old youth was given a 12-month detention and training order.

Jackson and Mooney were both given eight-month jail sentences suspended for two years and 200 hours of unpaid work.

The Cambridge News noted that the “young group have nearly 40 previous convictions between them.”<sup>31</sup>

- 1.13** Three men from Ashford received jail sentences in February 2014 for attacking a Pakistani man in Folkestone, Kent in July 2013.<sup>32</sup>

James Carpenter, 26, Benjamin Gordon, 24, and Daniel White, 23 admitted racially aggravated assault.

28. *Get West London*, 4 June 2014

29. *Daily Telegraph*, 6 August 2014

30. *BBC News*, 10 December 2014

31. *Cambridge News*, 19 February 2014

32. *Kent Online*, 17 February 2014

Canterbury Crown Court heard how in July 2013 the group had shouted: "F\*\*\* off, P\*\*\* b\*\*\*\*, go back to your own country" to a woman with a pram, before approaching an Asian man who was sitting on a bench talking into his phone.

The group, who were carrying beer cans, began shouting at the victim, Sarfaraz Khan, asking why he was wearing a dress and accused him of killing "our soldiers" a probable reference to the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby.

All three men then spat at Mr Khan and Carpenter punched him to the right of his neck before Gordon and White joined in on the assault. Gordon dragged Mr Khan into the middle of a road, with oncoming traffic, before throwing a beer can at him.

Members of the public came to help Mr Khan whilst the three men walked away.

Carpenter and Gordon were sentenced to 10 months in jail. White was sentenced to 8 months in jail.

- 1.14 A racist attacker punched a teenager in the face after an English Defence League march in Farnworth, Bolton on 26 August 2013.<sup>33</sup>

The 19 year old victim was sat in his car outside a fast food shop in Bradshawgate when he was racially abused. He got out of his car and was punched in the face, leaving him with a cut near his eye. The assailant ceased attacking his victim when a passer-by intervened.

Police released a CCTV image of a man wanted in connection with the incident in January 2014.

No further information is available.

- 1.15 A gang brandishing a number of weapons terrorised an Asian family at their home in Drylaw, Edinburgh on 10 February 2014.<sup>34</sup>

Neighbours described how a number of youths (who hid their faces), subjected two 18 year old teenagers of Arabian and Pakistani ethnicity to racial abuse, pelting them with stones and forcing them to take refuge inside their home. While in their home the gang besieged the property and smashed the windows.

A woman and children were also sheltering in the house at the time of the incident.

One resident who asked not to be named said: "To see the youths all armed with wood and golf clubs really shocked me. These youths could see children at the house windows and still smashed the windows in."

Police said the incident was being treated as racially-motivated. Four males; two 16 year olds, a 17 year old and a 15 year old were arrested and charged in connection with the attack in West Pilton Terrace. They were due to appear at Edinburgh Sherriff Court on 12 February 2014.

No further information is available in connection with the trial and sentencing .

- 1.16 A man was left needing hospital treatment for injuries to his face and shoulder after being assaulted and racially abused in Glasgow city centre on 22 February 2014.<sup>35</sup>

The 30 year old victim was standing outside a Co-op shop when he was approached by the perpetrator who started shouting racist comments before assaulting him.

Officers from Police Scotland issued a description of the suspect. Enquiries were being carried out and Police Scotland appealed to the public for information in connection with the incident.<sup>36</sup>

Police Scotland responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no persons had been indentified and the case is now closed.<sup>37</sup>

- 1.17 A trainee cab driver was robbed, beaten with a belt and subjected to racial abuse by three pas-

33. *The Bolton News*, 15 January 2014

34. *Edinburgh News*, 11 February 2014

35. *Daily Record*, 25 February 2014

36. *The Scotsman*, 12 February 2014

37. Freedom of Information request, Police Scotland. *No reference number provided.*

sengers when he picked them up on a fare on 4 February 2014.<sup>38</sup>

Sajid Maqsood, 36, stated how he was repeatedly struck in the face and back with a belt by three individuals before they robbed him of £40. He said he was “scared for his life” and has lived in fear since the incident occurred.

The attack began after three men flagged down Mr Maqsood’s taxi outside Rawtenstall bus station in Lancashire and asked to be driven to Bacup town centre.

The passengers did not have enough money to pay the full fare up front and handed over half with a mobile phone for deposit. Upon arriving at the destination Mr Maqsood, asked them for the rest of the fare. The men started abusing him.

Mr Maqsood said: “They started saying horrible things to me and racist words. I came out of the taxi and tried to find someone to help me but there was nobody else around. One of them took his belt off and hit me on my face and on my back. They then used it to break the taxi sign on my roof. I gave them the mobile and then ran away.”

Police launched an appeal for information in connection with the incident.

Lancashire Constabulary responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests have been made in relation to this incident.<sup>39</sup>

- 1.18 Two cousins of Pakistani background were subjected to verbal abuse and physical assault as they shopped in Bedminster, Bristol on 13 March 2014.<sup>40</sup>

Both were abused by a woman and at least one of her granddaughters at a Poundstretcher store in the city centre.

One victim was left in tears after being punched in the face, shoulder and neck after her attacker tried to pull her head dress off. Minutes earlier, her cousin had been abused by the elderly woman who called her an “illegal immigrant”, as she stood in a queue. When the victim heard the abuse, she interjected only to be assaulted by the younger female who told her “shut up you p\*\*\* b\*\*\*\*, don’t speak to my nan like that”.

Avon and Somerset police released CCTV images of the prime suspect wanted in connection with the incident.

Avon and Somerset police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that a 17 year old female was arrested in connection with the incident. She was charged with one offence of assault by beating. “All parties deemed it suitable for the individual to be given a suitable approved out of court disposal and she subsequently received a youth caution in July 2014.”<sup>41</sup>

- 1.19 An Asian man was left in hospital after three men subjected him to a racist attack on 6 April 2014.<sup>42</sup>

The incident occurred in Edinburgh’s Dalry area. Three men were arrested and were expected to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on 14 April 2014 in connection with the incident.<sup>43</sup>

It is not clear if the Asian man was of Pakistani or Bangladeshi background.

Police Scotland responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that three males aged 21, 22 and 25 were arrested and charged with attempted murder and assault Section 38 Criminal Justice Licensing Act 2010 and Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1995 S50(A)(1)(B)&(5) Racial.<sup>44</sup>

- 1.20 An Asian man in his 30’s who was sitting at a train station in Leeds was viciously kicked in the back by a man who came up on him from behind.<sup>45</sup>

38. *Rosendale Free Press*, 27 February 2014

39. Freedom of Information request, Lancashire police, *reference 6870/15*

40. *Bristol Post*, 20 March 2014

41. Freedom of Information request, Avon and Somerset police, *reference 1028/15*

42. *Herald Scotland*, 6 April 2014

43. *BBC News*, 7 April 2014. [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-26918307>]

44. Freedom of Information request, Police Scotland. *no reference number provided.*

45. *Telegraph and Argus*, 24 April 2014

The victim was subjected to racist abuse before being injured in the assault.

The suspect was caught on CCTV and police released the photo in an appeal for witnesses. West Yorkshire police asked for help in identifying the man who “may be able to assist” with their investigation into the incident.

British Transport Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that after a media appeal no response was received. No arrests have been made in connection with this incident and the case is now closed.<sup>46</sup>

- 1.21 Five teenagers terrorised a town’s Muslim community in an eight day spree of racially motivated crime and assault, attacking two elderly men and an eight-year-old boy, in October 2013.<sup>47</sup>

The teenagers, aged between 15 and 16 were charged with four racially aggravated incidents. In one incident, a 68 year old Muslim man was verbally abused before being hit by one of the gang.

In a second incident, a 70-year-old man was walking back from the mosque when he was approached by a group of males. He faced verbal abuse, which the victim said was racist, before being kicked. The victim said that some of the others were yelling to his attacker “hit him, hit him”.

In a third incident, a man in a car was surrounded by five boys while it was parked at KFC store. The car was then kicked so badly the damage done to the body meant it had to be written off.

In a fourth incident, a mother, her seven-year-old daughter and two sons, aged eight and three, were racially abused and sworn at on leaving a mosque after being confronted by a number of youths. The eight year old boy was spat at and slapped across the head by one of the gang.

The teenagers appeared at Sandwell Youth Court in April 2014. No further information is available in connection with the trial and sentencing.<sup>48</sup>

- 1.22 A 12 year old Asian boy was taken to hospital after being attacked and racially abused by an older teenager while he was out walking with his younger brother.<sup>49</sup>

The boy was assaulted in the Pollok area in Glasgow on 11 May. The victim and his 10 year old brother were walking along the road when they were approached by a youth who punched and racially abused the elder boy.

The victim made his way home and was taken to hospital by his parents. He was detained overnight as a precaution due to the effect the assault had on an existing medical condition.

Inspector Fraser Lennox of Pollok Police Office confirmed that officers were checking CCTV and carrying out door to door enquiries in the area in an effort to trace the youth responsible.

It is not clear if the Asian boy was of Pakistani or Bangladeshi background.

Police Scotland responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no persons had been identified and the case is now closed.<sup>50</sup>

- 1.23 Hull police issued a fresh appeal for information in connection with a vicious assault on an imam in December 2013 in which he lost his sight in one eye.<sup>51</sup>

Imam Hafiz Salik was assaulted in his car when he was flagged down on a road by a stranger. Two men and a woman were caught on CCTV in the area at the time of the assault but in July 2014, police issued a fresh appeal for witnesses amid concerns the investigation had “stalled”.

No further information is available in connection with this incident or progress in the police investigation.

- 1.24 An imam in Burton had two teeth knocked out and was left with a broken nose after being at-

46. Freedom of Information request, British Transport Police, *reference 619-15*

47. MEND OSCE Submission (2014) - incident reference 1.20

48. *Express and Star*, 30 April 2014

49. *Scotland TV*, 13 May 2014

50. Freedom of Information request, Police Scotland. *No reference number provided.*

51. *BBC News*, 3 July 2014 [available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-28145405>]

tacked outside his home.<sup>52</sup>

Hafiz Ramzan was approached by a male on 26 June 2014. A brief conversation ensued and the man then violently assaulted the imam leaving him in need of medical treatment.

Mr Ramzan was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre in Birmingham where he received treatment for head and facial injuries before being discharged.

In a statement, the mosque committee said: "Thursday was a deeply shocking day for the Burton Community. Imam Hafiz Ramzan was unfortunately attacked within his home on Uxbridge Street. He was injured in the attack but was released from hospital on the same day and is now recovering."

The incident was reported to Staffordshire police who appealed for any witnesses to the assault to come forward.

Staffordshire police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that a man was arrested in connection with the incident but was released and no further action taken against him. The investigation has been closed pending any further information that may be obtained in the future.<sup>53</sup>

- 1.25 A 12 year old Muslim boy was left with cuts and bruises after he was attacked by two men outside his home.<sup>54</sup>

Ubaid Khan, was playing football in Somercotes, Laidon, when he was attacked on 29 September 2014.

Ubaid's father, Khubaid Khan said: "My son was attacked by two men, who gave him a good smacking. He was playing football when the ball went out of the game and he ran to get it. These two men started shouting abuse at him, then they attacked him, leaving him with a cut lip and swollen face. For two men to do this to a young boy is unthinkable."

The incident was reported to Basildon police. A police investigation was launched but no further information is available in connection with the incident.

- 1.26 A 19 year old Muslim student suffered an attack in Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester when her headscarf was ripped off her head by a group of young white women.<sup>55</sup>

The victim, Maryam (full name withheld to protect identity of victim), was confronted by a group of white girls when she objected to their treatment of a beggar in the gardens on 4 November 2014.

The group of white girls abused the victim telling her: "Go back to your country you f\*\*\*\*\* terrorist p\*\*\*, I will bomb your face off." They then slapped her in the face before pulling her headscarf off and kicking her on the left side on the hips.

The group of girls had initially hit out at a beggar who was wearing the hijab, telling her to "go back to your own country" and "if I went to your country and begged for money I would get kidnapped and killed".

The incident was reported to Greater Manchester police. No further information is available.

- 1.27 A Muslim car wash worker was punched and almost run over by a car in an attack on 17 October 2014.<sup>56</sup>

Ary Aziz, 37, was alone at the ARC car wash in St Helens when he was confronted by a man demanding a free car wash. When he refused, the man became aggressive and burst into the small office on site.

Aziz was grabbed by the neck before being punched by his assailant.

Aziz said the man drove off when two passers-by saw what happened and ran over to help him.

52. *Burton Mail*, 28 June 2014

53. Freedom of Information request, Staffordshire Police, *reference 5996*

54. *Echo News*, 1 October 2014

55. *Mancunian Matters*, 5 November 2014

56. *St Helens Star*, 7 November 2014

Michael Laytham, 38, was found guilty of three charges: racially aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress; using threatening, abusive, or insulting words or behaviour; and common assault by beating in July 2015.<sup>57</sup>

The case has been adjourned until 14 August 2015 for a pre-sentence report to be prepared.<sup>58</sup>

- 1.28 A taxi company's drivers had their cab windows smashed and were verbally abused after false rumours circulated about the cab company banning passengers from wearing poppies.<sup>59</sup>

Apple Central Taxis in Weston-super-Mare were subjected to a boycott called by Weston's English Defence League branch who claimed the cab company had imposed a ban on passengers wearing poppies.

Cab company owner Iftikhar Ul-Haq said rumours were circulated on social media that two passengers had been asked to remove poppies while travelling in the company's cars. The company said the rumours were unverified and it had received no complaints from customers.

General manager, Steve Tedd, said the impact of the rumours had been "immediate" with two cars having their windows smashed. Tedd said "The allegations have had a bad effect on my staff and drivers".

Avon and Somerset police contacted the company on learning about the rumours offering "extra assistance" amid fears of revenge attacks.

- 1.29 A series of racially motivated attacks on Asian women on Boundary Road, Walthamstow took place in December 2014.<sup>60</sup>

The first incident took place on 5 December 2014 when an Asian woman was pushed to the ground by a white male. She sustained minor injuries. On 10 December 2014, three white males racially abused an Asian woman.

The police were searching for four white men over the two incidents.<sup>61</sup>

Police appealed for information from the public in connection with the attacks which they said "were not being linked". A police spokesperson said extra officers would be on patrol in the area to reassure the public.

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that in the case of the first incident on 5 December, after exhausting all avenues of enquiry no assailant was identified or arrest made. The investigation will be re-opened if further information comes to light.

The second incident was reported to City of London police.<sup>62</sup>

- 1.30 A Muslim convert appealed to society to "see beyond her hijab" after she disclosed a history of suffering verbal and physical attacks since converting to Islam.<sup>63</sup>

In an interview with the Portsmouth News, Yvonne Rodgers, 64, said she suffered regular abuse as a result of becoming a Muslim, which had worsened in 2014.

She was brutally attacked in November 2010, when she was beaten up and as a result had to give up her job as a taxi driver. Ms Rodgers said she also experienced incidents where shopkeepers refused to serve her and occasions when members of the public made obscene gestures at her in the street.

- 1.31 A man stabbed a Muslim shopkeeper in the neck with a kitchen knife in an unprovoked attack while shouting "you f\*\*\*\*\*g foreigners, coming to the UK to poison the British people" at him in an attack in Paddington, London in October 2014.<sup>64</sup>

57. Freedom of Information request, Merseyside Police, *reference DJ 204-15*

58. *St Helen's Star*, 28 July 2015

59. *Weston, Worle and Somerset Mercury*, 11 November 2014

60. *This Is Local London*, 12 December 2014

61. *London Evening Standard*, 12 December 2014

62. Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, *reference 2015070000301*

63. *Portsmouth News*, 8 December 2014

64. *Daily Mail*, 11 March 2015



Andrew Jefferson, 52, shouted abuse at Hilmi Uludag before slashing him in the neck, chin and arm. Mr Uludag also suffered an injury to his leg after falling on broken glass. The cut to his neck required 12 stitches.

Jefferson was found guilty of attempted murder and handed a life sentence with a minimum tariff of 10 years in July 2015. Jefferson was said to be suffering from “paranoid delusional psychosis” at the time of the attack and will remain in a medium-secure mental health unit before moving to prison if treatment is successful.<sup>65</sup>

- 1.32 A gang of racists broke the windows of a house in north Belfast in which Pakistani immigrants were residing in the early hours of Sunday 1 June 2014.

When one of the Pakistanis living at the property, a 24 year old man, left the house that afternoon he was verbally abused and assaulted. As he ran into the house, two men followed him in and assaulted a second resident, a 38 year old man.

The 24 year old, Mohammed Asif Khattak, was treated for an injury to his foot and minor cuts and bruises.

Police Service Northern Ireland were treating the vandalism and assault as hate crimes. Two people, a 57-year-old man and an 18-year-old woman, were arrested over the attack.<sup>66</sup>

The man was released on bail pending further inquiries. The woman was charged with disorderly behaviour and due to appear in court on 27 June 2014.<sup>67</sup>

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

Khattak later left the north Belfast property and said he would leave Northern Ireland altogether following the incident.<sup>68</sup>

- 1.33 A man who engaged in a “tirade of abuse” against Asian taxi drivers at the JJ Cars firm in Wrexham was sentenced on 17 November 2014.

Robert Roberts, 62, uttered a slew of verbal abuse at two Asian drivers calling them “illiterate, mongrel and a spastic” and used the phrase “pack rats and monkeys” according to a fellow driver who witnessed the abuse.

Lewis Cuthbert told Wrexham Magistrates’ court that one of the Asian drivers had sounded his emergency alarm. When Cuthbert went to assist, he saw Roberts throwing punches at one of the Asian drivers. Cuthbert intervened to stop Roberts who carried on making remarks about the Asian drivers which Cuthbert considered “racist in nature and extremely offensive.”

Roberts pleaded guilty to using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour at a hearing on 29 October 2014. He was sentenced to 150 hours of unpaid work, £85 in prosecution costs and a £65 victim surcharge on 17 November 2014.<sup>69</sup>

It is not clear if the Asian drivers were Pakistani or Bangladeshi. We have entered an FOI request to North Wales police to corroborate this as an anti-Muslim hate crime.

- 1.34 A racist who abused and assaulted an Asian taxi driver was handed an ASBO (anti-social behaviour order) which prohibits him from using racist or abusive language in a public place or encouraging others to do so.

John Hughes, 50, approached an Asian taxi driver on George Street, Brighton, in May 2014 making racist comments and assaulting him. When police arrived, Hughes resisted arrest and vandalised the police car.

He was charged with racially aggravated common assault, racially aggravated harassment, alarm or distress, resisting arrest and criminal damage.

Hughes was sentenced to 14 weeks in prison for racially aggravated common assault and 12

65. *Evening Standard*, 30 July 2015

66. *The Guardian*, 1 June 2014

67. *4ni.co.uk*, 2 June 2014. [available at: <http://www.4ni.co.uk/northern-ireland-news/181356/woman-charged-over-racist-attack>]

68. *BBC News*, 2 June 2014. [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-27667937>]

69. *News North Wales*, 18 November 2014.

weeks for racially aggravated harassment, alarm or distress, to run concurrently.

He was handed an ASBO which prohibits him from using racist or abusive language in a public place or encouraging others to do so. He was also prohibited the use any licensed cab in the city.<sup>70</sup>

It is not clear if the Asian driver was Pakistani or Bangladeshi. We have entered an FOI request to Sussex police to corroborate this as an anti-Muslim hate crime.

- 1.35 Essex police appealed for witnesses after an Asian taxi driver alleged being subjected to verbal abuse by a man outside The Tasty Grill restaurant, at a bus station in Harlow.

The incident happened on 5 June 2014. A 47-year-old man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of racially-aggravated harassment and was placed on police bail pending further enquiries until July 15 2014.<sup>71</sup>

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

It is not clear if the Asian driver was Pakistani or Bangladeshi. We have entered an FOI request to Essex police to corroborate this as an anti-Muslim hate crime.

- 1.36 A white supremacist who attacked a man with a beer bottle on the day of Fusilier Lee Rigby's funeral in July 2013 was found guilty of racially aggravated wounding at Newport Crown Court in December 2014.

Richard Harris, 38, denied the assault on Zahoor Hussain but was found guilty after his Nazi tattoos were exposed and pictures of Hitler found in his living room.

Harris told Hussain's white colleagues that they were "stupid" to mix with Asian people. He told Hussain "You should get out of here, this isn't your country - you are all terrorists."

Hussain was struck with a beer bottle "so hard his ear was almost severed from his scalp".

Harris denied being a racist but admitted to being a member of "white pride" He also told Newport Crown Court that "Hitler's views are common sense on a lot of things".

Harris was convicted of racially aggravated wounding.<sup>72</sup> He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in January 2015. His appeal against his sentence was denied in July 2015 with three appeal Judges ruling that there were "no arguable grounds that the sentence was manifestly excessive".<sup>73</sup>

- 1.37 A man who racially abused and assaulted a Muslim taxi driver was jailed for 12 months in April 2014.

Karl Binner, 23, rode in Naheed Choudry's taxi on 1 June 2014. Choudry arrived at the address in Huddersfield where a taxi had been ordered. He drove Binner and three friends to a store before returning them to the same address. On the return leg of the journey, Binner became abusive telling Choudry that Muslims should go back to their own country.

Binner called Choudry a "black Muslim b\*\*\*\*\*". Binner also made a remark about Muslims killing one person and threatening to retaliate for the act, a probable reference to the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby who was killed on 22 May 2013.

When Choudry arrived at the address, Binner threatened to kill him and struck him thrice down the side of his face with a bottle. Choudry feared for his life but Binner and his three friends ran off.

Binner admitted racially aggravated assault at Leeds Crown Court and was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment.<sup>74</sup>

- 1.38 Sarah Champion, MP for Rotherham Central remarked that at a meeting in her constituency with eight young Asian girls she had been told that they were too scared to go into Rotherham Town

70. *The Argus*, 18 December 2014

71. *Harlow Star*, 13 June 2014

72. *South Wales Evening Post*, 15 December 2014

73. *Wales Online*, 24 July 2015. [available at: <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/white-supremacist-who-viciously-attacked-9725931>]

74. *Huddersfield Examiner*, 3 April 2014

Centre after “right-wing” men threatened them and made suggestions that they would rape them to “even things up”.

The comment was made on a BBC Radio Sheffield programme on 19 November 2014 in a discussion about how Rotherham had been affected by the report by Professor Alexis Jay on child sexual exploitation in the city and the failure of public agencies.

South Yorkshire Police said that while reports of abuse directed at Asian people had increased, incidents of violence had not.

South Yorkshire Police said it had not received any reports surrounding these incidents but urged anyone who experienced hate crime to report it.<sup>75</sup>

- 1.39 A taxi driver was left with a fractured jaw after being assaulted in a racially motivated attack in Birmingham city centre on 2 August 2014.<sup>76</sup>

West Midlands Police said the attack occurred shortly after the driver’s taxi was flagged down in Birmingham city centre by a group of men at approximately 3am on 2 August 2014. The driver pulled up outside a club when the men began banging on the cab and hurling racist insults at him. He then stepped out of his car to flag down some help but was attacked by the men who repeatedly punched him, leaving him with a fractured jaw and severe bruising.

Three men were captured on CCTV in connection with the assault. West Midlands police issued an appeal to the public for information to help identify the three men.

Detective Constable Sarah McDonnell, from West Midlands Police, said: “Due to the language used during the attack, we are treating this as racially motivated. Despite numerous inquiries at the scene - speaking to witnesses and gathering CCTV - we are yet to identify those behind the assault.”

It is not clear if the taxi driver is of Pakistani or Bangladeshi ethnic background.

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

- 1.40 Two brothers attacked a taxi driver and shouted racial abuse at him after a row over taxi fare.

Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court were told that the brothers, together with another man and two women, caught a taxi from Keele to Knutton. When they arrived at their destination an issue arose after the taxi driver asked for payment of the fare.

Kyle Brown, 22, became verbally abusive shouting racist insults at the driver. He punched the taxi driver in the face twice and tried to steal his mobile phone. His younger brother Liam, 21, threw a glass at the car window causing it to smash.

The driver was left with a swollen and bloodied nose and suffered blurred vision. In a victim statement to the court, the driver said he experienced difficulty sleeping and had been left feeling frightened and no longer works as late.

Kyle Brown pleaded guilty to assault by causing actual bodily harm and attempted theft. Liam Brown pleaded guilty to criminal damage, while admitting the crime was racially aggravated but not racially motivated.

Kyle Brown was jailed for nine months. His brother, Liam Brown was jailed for seven weeks in May 2014.<sup>77</sup>

It is not clear if the taxi driver is of Pakistani or Bangladeshi ethnic background.

- 1.41 A young Somali schoolgirl was verbally abused and spat at in Bristol city centre while making her way home from school in July 2014.<sup>78</sup>

The 17 year old girl was left feeling “humiliated” after a man shouted verbal abuse at her in

75. *BBC News*, 25 November 2014

76. *Express and Star*, 12 November 2014

77. *Stoke Sentinel*, 10 May 2014

78. *Bristol Post*, 17 July 2014

the street and spat on her leaving saliva residue on her scarf and on her school bag. The man shouted insults about Islam and about the girl's supposed birthplace though she was born and raised in the UK.

The girl was abused in broad daylight and in a busy part of town but no passers-by intervened.

The girl called her father who took her to Trinity police station where an incident report was completed.

Avon and Somerset police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that a 25 year old male was arrested in connection with the incident on 31 July and charged on 20 September, on advice of the Crown Prosecution Service.

The man appeared in court on 14 November 2014 where he pleaded guilty to one charge of racially aggravated assault by beating. He received a community sentence of 120 hours unpaid work, was ordered to pay £250 compensation to the victim, a £1 victim surcharge and £85 in costs.<sup>79</sup>

- 1.42 An elderly Somali woman, 68, was physically assaulted by a man as she got off a bus in north London in October 2014.

The man had been waiting at the bus stop where the woman disembarked from her bus. He started following her as she walked down the road and began to hurl verbal abuse calling her a "f\*\*king Muslim b\*\*\*\*".

The man then threw a punch at her and as she moved to avoid the blow, she was struck on the face.

No further information is available in connection with this incident.<sup>80</sup>

- 1.43 Two Muslim shopkeepers were seriously wounded in knife attacks at two different shops in north London on 23 September 2014.<sup>81</sup>

Iftikher Ahmed was attacked at a store on Greenland Road, Camden, by a man brandishing a knife. He suffered cuts to his hand and his head as he tried to defend himself in the assault. The attack happened at 7:15pm and two hours later, another Muslim shopkeeper, Samsul Islam, was attacked by the same knifeman who returned to the area brandishing two knives.

Michael Patrick O'Leary, 36, told Mr Islam he "wanted to kill a Muslim".

Islam tried to grab the knife from O'Leary but fell to the floor when O'Leary punched him. Islam also suffered injuries to his hands in the assault.

O'Leary was sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in March 2015.

He appealed against the length of his sentence in August 2015 but his appeal was rejected.

Mr Justice Jeremy Baker denied the appeal stating "Overall, this was an extremely serious series of offences, which involved the appellant repeatedly arming himself with knives which he was prepared to brandish towards vulnerable victims. At least one of the offences was racially aggravated and the victims have suffered lasting psychological harm."<sup>82</sup>

- 1.44 A taxi driver assaulted a traffic warden in north west London on 31 January 2014.

Sajid Shafi, 46, became aggressive towards traffic warden, Mohammed Guelle, when he was told that his car was parked illegally and he would have to be fined.

Shafi verbally abused Guelle, punched him twice in the face and wrestled him to the ground.

Shafi was found guilty of common assault but cleared of racially aggravated common assault in August 2014. He was due for sentencing on 26 September 2014.<sup>83</sup>

79. Freedom of Information request, Avon and Somerset police, *reference 1107/15*

80. *5Pillars*, 8 October 2014. [available at: <http://5pillarsuk.com/2014/10/08/elderly-somali-woman-attacked-at-london-bus-stop>]

81. *Islington Gazette*, 7 October 2014

82. *London24*, 7 August 2015.

[available at: [http://www.london24.com/news/crime/camden\\_knifeman\\_who\\_wanted\\_to\\_kill\\_muslim\\_loses\\_appeal\\_1\\_4184228](http://www.london24.com/news/crime/camden_knifeman_who_wanted_to_kill_muslim_loses_appeal_1_4184228)]

83. *Brent and Kilburn Times*, 29 August 2014

No further details are available in connection with this case.

- 1.45 A man who was barred from a supermarket store in south London for shoplifting abused a security guard calling him a 'f\*\*\*\*\* Muslim'.

Adrian West, 50, was barred from the Asda store in West Green, Crawley, in April 2014 after he was caught shoplifting. In September, he returned to the store and when stopped by a security guard who recognised him from the earlier incident, West verbally abused him calling him "mother f\*\*\*\*\*" and telling him: "You shouldn't be allowed in this country. F\*\*\* off to your own country."

West exited the store and tried to re-enter by another door and when stopped again by the security guard, called him a "f\*\*\*\*\* Muslim" and again shouted: "F\*\*\* off to your own country" before slapping him across the face.

A report from the Probation Service stated that the only possible reason West could think of for making such comments was the amount of alcohol he had drunk coupled with "negative reports in the media" about Muslims, which he claimed may have influenced his thoughts subconsciously.

West appeared at Crawley Magistrates' Court for sentencing on 27 November, having pleaded guilty to racially aggravated assault at a previous hearing on November 19.

West was given a 12-month community order which includes 100 hours of unpaid work. He was also ordered to attend an alcohol intervention programme and pay £100 compensation to the victims.<sup>84</sup>

- 1.46 The leader of far right group Britain First, Paul Golding, was found guilty of harassing Munazza Munawar outside her home in Chafford Hundred, Essex.

Golding appeared in court in connection with the incident, which happened in April, to deny the charges saying he was there "in the public interest to expose a well-known Al-Qaeda terrorist to his neighbours and the local community."

Golding was found guilty on charges of harassment and of wearing a political uniform signifying association with a political organisation.<sup>85</sup>

He was fined £325 for harassment and £100 for wearing the political uniform at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court in January 2015.

He was also ordered to pay £532 costs, given a restraining order banning him from returning to the Hepburn Close property for two years and must not attempt to contact Munazza Munawar during that period.<sup>86</sup>

- 1.47 The sentencing of eight English Defence League (EDL) supporters at Birmingham Crown Court for violent disorder at an EDL rally in Birmingham in 2013 was temporarily halted after one of them demanded to be updated on a café siege that was taking place in Sydney, Australia.

Judge Richard Bond who had already sentenced three of the men adjourned the case after being verbally abused and told "If there were proper sentences for extremists, the EDL wouldn't be here." Judge Bond was asked by another defendant: "Any news on the Australian hostages?"

Some of the defendants on trial began chanting "No surrender to the Taliban."

During the rally in 2013, a Muslim prayer cap and a Pakistani flag were set on fire in the street and police were pelted with paving slabs and bottles.

Among those being sentenced were Otis Bloodworth, 35, who was seen on CCTV punching a man at the English Defence League rally. When he was questioned by police as to whether he had any medical conditions at the time of his arrest, Bloodworth replied "Islamophobia". He also refused to be represented by a Muslim solicitor. He was jailed for 18 months.

Benjamin Crowder, 22, who was found to have thrown an object at police during the rally was given a two year custodial sentence.

84. *Crawley News*, 4 December 2014

85. *This is Local London*, 19 September 2014

86. *Essex Chronicle*, 5 January 2015

Shane Williams, 27, was seen chanting anti-Islamic slogans, hurling an empty soft drinks bottle at police, and was present at five of seven distinct sites of disorder at the protest. He was jailed for two years.

Thomas Flynn, 22, of Swindon, who confronted police officers leading them to push him away with riot shields, was jailed for 14 months.

Gareth Wall, 25, of Leeds used a metal pole to smash the window of a restaurant and was jailed for twenty months.<sup>87</sup>

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87. *The Guardian*, 15 December 2014

## 2. Attacks on property or institutions

- 2.1 A soldier, who broke into a mosque and stole a Qur'an in December 2013 was sentenced in December 2014.<sup>88</sup>

CCTV cameras showed Liam King, 22, forcing his way into Jamia mosque in Parkway, Chelmsford, Essex, with two other men on 15 December 2013.<sup>89</sup>

It was the second time in three weeks that King had broken into the mosque. Chelmsford Crown Court heard that King initially broke a lock on the door of the mosque on 23 November 2013.<sup>90</sup>

King allegedly had drunk so much alcohol that he could not remember breaking into the mosque but admitted one charge of burglary and one charge of criminal damage.

He was given a 12 month jail sentence, suspended for two years for the burglary, and a one month suspended sentence for criminal damage.

King was also ordered to complete 100 hours of unpaid work within a year, and pay £1,200 costs and £175 compensation to the mosque.

- 2.2 Four men who threw a pig's head into the grounds of a mosque days after the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby were jailed in November 2014.

Thomas Ashton, 21, Andrew Warner, 31, Travis Crabtree, 25, and Steven White, 28, left a carrier bag containing the severed pig's head in the car park of Blackpool Central Mosque on 24 May 2013.<sup>91</sup>

The men, all from Blackpool, admitted religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress.

At the hearing at Preston Crown Court, Judge Graham Knowles described the crime as "poisonous" and sentenced Ashton to 10 months in jail, Warner to seven months, Crabtree to 14 months and White to eight months.<sup>92</sup>

- 2.3 Racist and anti-Muslim remarks were spray-painted on Rivington Road, a part of the bike route used for Bolton's Ironman event in July 2014.

The graffiti was written alongside messages of support for the Ironman contestants taking part in the race on 20 July.

The graffiti read: "Muslims mutilate the innocent."

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, described the graffiti as a "very concerning incident" and Lancashire Police were investigating the incident.

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

- 2.4 A man who threatened to "burn mosque down with youse in it" in Ellesmere Port, Chester in June 2014 was sentenced in August 2014.<sup>93</sup>

Martin Peter Sallis drew swastikas and KKK symbols on children's bunting and hung it outside a proposed mosque site in Ellesmere Port sometime between 27 and 30 June 2014.

Sallis, said he wanted to "fit in" with the local community who he claimed were against proposals for an Islamic cultural centre in King Street, Ellesmere Port.

He initially said it was a "joke", but later told police his aim was to cause fear, alarm and distress to the Muslim community.

88. *Braintree and Witham Times*, 4 December 2014

89. MEND OSCE Submission (2014) - incident reference 2.54

90. *Maldon Standard*, 16 December 2013

91. MEND OSCE Submission (2014) - incident reference 2.51

92. *Mail On Sunday*, 18 November 2014

93. *Chester Chronicle*, 8 August 2014



## 2.3

Anti-Muslim graffiti sprayed on Ironman route in Bolton, Lancashire.



Sallis, who was an alcoholic at the time of the offence and a recovering drug addict, said he was inebriated when he made the threats. He pleaded guilty to racially or religiously aggravated harassment.

At Chester Magistrates on 8 August 2014 a restraining order was imposed, forcing Sallis to stay away from the site for 12 months.

Sallis was also sentenced to a 12 month supervision order, with a drug rehabilitation requirement, a three month curfew, and ordered to pay £145, £85 of which were court costs.

- 2.5 In March 2014 the far-right party Britain First posted a video on their website showing members entering the Madina mosque in Bolton, the Golden mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre in Rochdale and the Jamiyat Tabligh-ul-Islam mosque in Oldham.

The group were seen distributing leaflets containing offensive anti-Muslim remarks to Muslim worshippers at the various mosques.<sup>94</sup>

It is not clear if the incidents were reported to the police.

- 2.6 CCTV footage captured a man causing damage to Jami mosque in Sunderland following a rally by the English Defence League on 30 March 2014.<sup>95</sup>

After being arrested, Connor McIntosh, 19, made a series of disparaging comments about Islam and Muslims, including the remark: "there were too many mosques and they (Muslims) were grooming our kids".

He also boasted that he was a member of the English Defence League during an interview with the police.

He pleaded guilty to causing racially aggravated criminal damage at Sunderland magistrates and confirmed that he ripped off a drainpipe from the building.

Mr McIntosh was fined £110 and ordered to pay £100 compensation to the mosque, along with £85 court costs and a £20 victim surcharge.

- 2.7 Prayer room signs at Guy's campus, Kings College, University of London were vandalised on 28 March 2014.

One sign had the word "Muslim" scratched out and another had a "Jewish" sticker placed over the word "Muslim" in the sign giving directions to the prayer room.

Sebastian Debrouwere, President of the university's Student Union, said: "This defacement is awful and disgraceful, and in no way furthers the healthy climate of interfaith dialogue we strive for on campus. We will be raising this issue with College and asking the university to follow up on it with the greatest expediency."

King's College London did not release a statement regarding the incident and no further information is available.

- 2.8 A fire was lit at the back of Jamee mosque in Bletchley, Milton Keynes, at approximately 1am on 8 March 2014.<sup>96</sup>

The mosque has previously been targeted in hate crime attacks.<sup>97</sup>

Richard Bevington, 30, admitted arson with intent to danger life and a racially and religiously-aggravated public order offence.

He was sentenced to four years in jail at Aylesbury Crown Court in May 2014.<sup>98</sup>

- 2.9 Two men left a 22 year old Kuwaiti student with a broken nose in a racially-aggravated attack in North Wales on 16 January 2014.<sup>99</sup>

94. *Asian Image*, 21 March 2014.

95. *Sunderland Echo*, 19 April 2014

96. *BBC News*, 9 March 2014 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-26504469>]

97. *OneMK*, 22 July 2013. [available at: <http://www.onemk.co.uk/news/2013/7/Man-arrested-stone-attack-Bletchley-mosque-22263395.html>]

98. *BBC News*, 2 May 2014 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-27259459>]

99. *Daily Post*, 6 May 2014

Nathan Edward Riley, 23, engaged the victim in a conversation and began to racially abuse him before Craig Lee Jones, 26, punched him in the face. Riley then punched and kicked the victim to the upper body and face.

When the police reached the scene of the crime the victim was extremely upset, crying and repeatedly told officers that he had not done anything wrong.

The student required surgery to fix his broken nose.

Mr Jones admitted punching the student but stated that he was not involved in any racial abuse. He was sentenced to two years in jail after he admitted assault and breaching his ASBO (anti social behaviour order).

Mr Riley was sentenced to 25 months in jail after he admitted racially aggravated assault.

- 2.10 A member of the English Defence League who nailed a copy of the Qur'an to the wall of a pub that was being turned into a Muslim education centre was sentenced in January 2014.<sup>100</sup>

Graham French, 28, wrote "EDL" on the wall of the former pub, the Melrose Arms, in Shotton Colliery in December 2013. The former pub had been repeatedly targeted in hate crime attacks since local businessman Kaiser Javeed Choudry bought the property for the purposes of converting it into a Muslim education centre.

On 14 Dec 2013, the building had been vandalised twice in white paint causing £500 of damage and a copy of the Qur'an was nailed onto a wooden board covering a window. After forensic analysis several links to the defendant, including a palm print, were found.

When French was arrested he admitted that his actions were a "revenge attack" claiming he was followed home from the pub one day by a female wearing a burqa.

He pleaded guilty to causing racially or religiously-aggravated criminal damage at Peterlee Magistrates' Court in January 2014 and was sentenced to a six months' community order.

French was placed under electronically monitored curfew between 10.30am and 7am for a month and ordered to pay a £60 victim surcharge and £80 court costs.<sup>101</sup>

- 2.11 The far right group Britain First distributed Bibles and leaflets to Muslims worshippers outside mosques in Bradford on 10 May 2014.

The far right group's members staged protests outside ten places of worship in the city centre, posting images of themselves confronting members of the Muslim community on Facebook.<sup>102</sup>

The Britain First leader, Paul Golding, announced that his group of activists distributed 100 Bibles in Bradford.<sup>103</sup>

The leaflets distributed to the public claimed Islam "remains hostile to our democratic, western culture" and accused authorities of "turning a blind eye" to "Muslim grooming."<sup>104</sup>

The group also visited the campaign office of Nazam Azam, a Muslim Labour councillor who was running for re-election in Bradford demanding action on "Muslim grooming gangs."

The group also posted a video showing their Defence Force's Yorkshire Brigade campaign on "Direct action against Muslim Grooming Gangs in Bradford". The video shows at least ten far right activists "invading" mosques in Bradford.

After the events, Golding wrote on the party's official Facebook page that the "Christian crusade" would continue.<sup>105</sup>

"Our intelligence team is at present compiling lists of home address's [sic] of Bradford MPs, councillors, newspaper editors and Muslim community leaders/imams, and we will be visiting them all over the next couple of weeks.

100. *Sunderland Echo*, 24 January 2014

101. *Asian Image*, 12 February 2014

102. *The Independent*, 11 May 2014

103. *The Guardian*, 13 May 2014

104. *Yorkshire Post*, 13 May 2014

105. *The Guardian*, 13 May 2014

“We will also continue our invasions of Bradford mosques, madrassas and community centres – we are only getting warmed up! We appeal to moderate Muslims to act against the ‘enemy within’ or we will!”

It is not clear if the incidents were reported to the police and any investigation(s) launched into the unsolicited visits to mosques or any harassment or public order offences.

- 2.12 On 11 May 2014 members of the far right party Britain First staged protests in Glasgow and handed out British Army bibles to Muslim worshippers outside mosques in the city.

Leaflets were distributed at Glasgow Central Mosque and a mosque in Cumbernauld, Lanarkshire.<sup>106</sup>

The group dressed in khaki jackets and mosque staff allowed the Britain First team into the premises thinking they were from the British Army.

Central Mosque secretary Nabeel Shaikh said: “We get police and emergency services to the mosque all the time. We’ve an open-door policy.

“Those who spoke with these guys told them they agreed with their comments on sexual grooming, how Islam was deeply opposed to it but found it curious as to why the Army was here telling us this.

“Their dress was military style and they gave out Army bibles. They left when the committee members continued to agree with them and it was only when they left and the guys had a closer look at the leaflets they realised this definitely was not the type of thing the Army would deliver to a mosque.”

Police Scotland responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that after extensive enquiries and consultation with the Crown Office and the procurator Fiscal Service no criminal charges were brought against Britain First members.<sup>107</sup>

- 2.13 The far-right group Britain First visited two mosques in Gillingham, Kent, one of which resulted in an altercation with a worshipper on 26 June 2014.<sup>108</sup>

On the doorstep of the Jamia Mosque the group confronted a man, firing accusations at him concerning the segregation of men and women in the place of worship.

The Kent Muslim Welfare Association had submitted a planning application to the local council for new premises. It is currently housed at the Jamia mosque address in Canterbury Street, Gillingham.

In video footage from the Jamia mosque posted on the Britain First Facebook page, one of the individuals involved is heard saying “Withdraw your application for a new mosque, ok?”

“Otherwise we, Britain First, will run a big campaign against you guys personally and also the council and the Imam, yeah?”

“You’ve got a mosque, yeah. We don’t want these huge mosques with domes and minarets in our towns with separate entrances for men and women in our country.”

The incidents were reported to the police and a spokeswoman for Kent Police said “Officers are making enquiries to establish the circumstances and whether any criminal offences have been committed.”<sup>109</sup>

Kent Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that an investigation was carried out and that no offences were identified and no arrests made.<sup>110</sup>

- 2.14 Britain First handed out offensive leaflets and bibles at the East London Mosque in Whitechapel.

Members of the far right group filmed the incident before quickly driving off in a car, according

106. *Herald Scotland*, 14 May 2014

107. Freedom of Information request, Police Scotland. *No reference number provided.*

108. *Kent Online*, 3 July 2014

109. *Kent Messenger*, 3 July 2014

110. Freedom of Information request, Kent Police, *reference 15/07/660*

to one eye witness account.<sup>111</sup>

A spokesperson for the Metropolitan Police Service said, “Officers on patrol in Whitechapel Road, E1 witnessed a group of three men and a woman running into the East London Mosque at 1231hrs on Monday 19 May.

“The group dropped off some leaflets in the mosque before making off in a motor vehicle. The leaflets have since been seized by police and are published by Britain First.”

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that “no offences have been alleged by the staff at the mosque. No arrests have been made.”<sup>112</sup>

- 2.15 A firework was thrown at an Islamic centre in Tyneside on Wednesday 5 March 2014.<sup>113</sup>

Approximately eight people were inside the Whitley Bay Islamic Cultural Centre. They were praying at the time of the attack.

Six men, between the ages of 19 and 29 were arrested by Northumbria Police over the incident.

No further information is available.

- 2.16 An arson attack caused £10,000 worth of damage to a recently refurbished Islamic education centre in South Devon.<sup>114</sup>

When people arrived at the Plymouth Islamic Education Trust Centre on 19 April 2014 they discovered raw sewerage pouring into the street after a fire had damaged the building’s exterior wall and sewage pipes.

CCTV footage showed the damage was caused by two individuals setting fire to wheelie bins outside the centre.

Devon and Cornwall Police said there was no evidence to suggest there was any ulterior motive behind the arson attack claiming a number of similar arson attacks had been committed in the area targeting residential and business premises.

Devon and Cornwall Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that the “crime had been investigated as far as reasonably possible. No suspect identified.”<sup>115</sup>

- 2.17 An arts and community centre in Birmingham was targeted by arsonists in a suspected racially motivated attack.<sup>116</sup>

Ulfah Arts and Media, based in Highgate Square was destroyed in a fire at 5am on 20 May 2014.<sup>117</sup>

A spokesman for the centre mentioned that the fire followed shortly after an email was received by the company’s CEO containing anti-Islamic content.

Leon Smythe, 40 was arrested in connection with the incident and appeared in court on charges of arson in February. Birmingham Crown Court heard that Smythe had attacked the centre hours after being released from prison. Judge Roderick Henderson described the arson attack as “a burglary gone wrong”.

Smythe was jailed for 5 years in February 2015 after being found guilty of arson.<sup>118</sup>

- 2.18 Five members of the far-right group Britain First forced their way inside Crayford mosque, South London on 13 July 2014.<sup>119</sup>

Their aim was to “demand the removal of sexist signs” outside the mosque. The signs designated separate entrances for men and women.

111. *The Times*, 19 May 2014

112. Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, *reference 2015070000295*

113. *Chronicle Live*, 7 March 2014.

114. *Western Morning News*, 27 April 2014

115. Freedom of Information request, Devon and Cornwall Police, *reference 003564/15*

116. *ITV News*, 21 May 2014

117. *Birmingham Mail*, 21 May 2014

118. *Birmingham Mail*, 20 February 2015

119. *The Independent*, 15 July 2014

A film of the encounter was posted on Britain First's Facebook page, which ended with the slogan: "Britain First Defence Force. No fear. No retreat. No surrender."

All the members marched into the mosque and asked to speak to the imam. As he was not present they confronted the first person they could find. Paul Golding, Britain First's leader, announced: "We're Britain First, yeah? We object to your signs that are outside, the signs for men and women... in this country we have equality."

The man politely asked them to remove their shoes in a place of worship but was ignored by the five members of the group. However, Mr Golding replied: "When you respect women we'll respect your mosques and you've got signs out there that segregate men and women."

A female member of the group accused Muslims of taking gender equality back "a hundred years" and told the man to take the signs down. The man promised to take the signs down and ushered the group outside. He was also told to cover up a Christian cross built into the brick of the building (a former Methodist Church). Mosque members explained that the cross was part of the structure and under the control of the council, but the group called it "offensive" to Christians.

A statement on Britain First's website claimed that members of the "Kent Battalion" had their homes searched by the Metropolitan Police hours after the incident.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police said: "The incident is being investigated by detectives from Bexley Community Safety Unit to establish whether any offences have been committed."

The Metropolitan Police Service responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that an individual voluntarily attended a south London police station to speak to officers. He was interviewed under caution. After investigation, it was determined that no offence was committed and therefore, no further action taken.<sup>120</sup>

- 2.19 Shah Jalal Mosque in Blacon, Cheshire was targeted on 24 July 2014. The thieves struck during the month of Ramadan and stole a third of the plants that the local community project had planted. The plants were torn out from the mosque's grounds.<sup>121</sup>

A spokesman from Cheshire Police confirmed that 15 plants were pulled out while others were also damaged. The investigation is ongoing.

- 2.20 Muslim graves at Chadderton Cemetery, Manchester, were vandalised with headstones uprooted, flowers trampled on and memorials kicked over.<sup>122</sup>

The incident happened between 8:30pm on Friday 15 August and 7:30pm on Saturday 16 August.

When officers from Greater Manchester Police arrived they found up to ten graves, all in the Muslim section of the cemetery, had been damaged. Police were treating the incident as a racially motivated attack.

Wooden grave markers and headstones were uprooted from four adjoining graves, one of which had a brass plaque ripped from the headstone. Someone had also walked directly over a recent grave.

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

- 2.21 Two men shouted racist abuse at a man before smashing the windows of a mosque by hurling a plank of wood at it in Warrington Town Centre on 7 July 2014.<sup>123</sup> Worshippers were inside the building at the time but no injuries were reported.

Nathan Hancox, 20, and a teenager were caught after a police appeal for witnesses appeared in the local paper, the Warrington Guardian.<sup>124</sup>

Hancox was charged with racially aggravated criminal damage and the teenager with racially aggravated intentional harassment. Hancox and the teen initially denied the attack was racially

120. Freedom of Information request, Metropolitan Police Service, reference 2015070000319

121. *Chester Chronicle*, 28 July 2014

122. *Manchester Evening News*, 18 August 2014

123. *This is Cheshire*, 8 July 2014

124. *Warrington Guardian*, 29 August 2014

aggravated. They changed their pleas to guilty in court.

Hancox was handed a curfew from 6pm to 6am for six weeks and was ordered to pay £100 in compensation to the mosque and a £60 victim surcharge. The teen was handed a six month referral at Halton Magistrates Court on 9 April 2015.<sup>125</sup>

- 2.22 An Islamic cultural centre in Cardiff was closed after thousands of pounds of damage was caused in a burglary.<sup>126</sup>

The Rabbaniah Islamic Cultural Centre was targeted between 9.30pm on Sunday 14 September 2014 and 1.30pm on Monday 15 September 2014.

Khalid Farid, from the centre, said the burglars broke into the main hall first before tearing off parts of the internal roof panels to get into the office and that the whole property on Clare Road in Grangetown, had been vandalised.

Charity boxes had been ripped from the walls and locked boxes containing staff wages had been reported stolen. A total of £4,000 has been stolen and computers were stamped on, CCTV cameras were pulled from the walls and doors had been kicked through.

A spokesman for South Wales Police said police in Cardiff were investigating a burglary which occurred at the Islamic Centre and asked anybody who had any information to come forward.

South Wales Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that an individual was arrested, charged and convicted in connection with this incident.<sup>127</sup>

It is not known if the charges brought included a racially or religiously aggravated element.

- 2.23 A mini-bus that was used for elderly worshippers at Manchester Islamic Centre on Regent Street, Newton Heath was torched.<sup>128</sup>

Police were called before 11.30pm on Friday, September 5, and found two CCTV cameras had been ripped from the front of the building. Approximately two hours later at 1:20am, they were called again after a minibus, parked in a secure yard at the back of the centre, was found ablaze.

Inspector Chris Hadfield, of Greater Manchester Police, said: "We believe the two incidents are linked and that the theft of the CCTV cameras was meant to help them carry out their arson attack on the minibus without being recorded. We are investigating the possibility that this is a targeted hate crime."<sup>129</sup>

A 34 year old man was arrested at Eccles, Salford on suspicion of theft and arson. The police believed that another person was involved and appealed for witnesses to come forward with any more information.

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

- 2.24 A group of four or five men entered the grounds of Blackpool Central Mosque with CCTV footage showing one of the men breaking in through a wooden side door at 11pm on 12 September 2014.<sup>130</sup>

A man was seen walking through a number of rooms inside the mosque and he is believed to have urinated in the reception area before leaving the building undetected.

The police released CCTV images of a man they wanted to speak to in connection with burglary and religiously aggravated criminal damage at the mosque.

Lancashire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that a man was convicted of the offence 'burglary other than dwelling with intent to commit damage'.<sup>131</sup>

125. *Warrington Guardian*, 9 April 2015

126. *Wales Online*, 15 September 2014.

127. Freedom of Information request, Leicestershire Police, *reference 563/15*

128. *Manchester Evening News*, 23 September 2014

129. *BBC News*, 6 September 2014 [available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-29094284>]

130. *Blackpool Gazette*, 24 September 2014

131. Freedom of Information request, Lancashire, *reference 6868/15*

2.25 A pig's head was placed outside an Islamic cultural centre in Ellesmere Port.<sup>132</sup>

Officers from Cheshire Police were called to King Street after a member of the public reported suspicious activity outside the centre before midnight on 23 October 2014.

A 41-year-old man from Ellesmere Port was arrested on suspicion of committing a racially aggravated public order offence.

A Facebook group containing racist content, including images of pigs and anti-Islamic messages, named "Ban Ellesmere Port Mosque" was found by the police. The group, set up on 12 September 2014, aimed to "stop Muslims taking over Ellesmere Port" and "keeping Britain British".

Two men, 41 and 33, who are both from Ellesmere Port, were arrested and released on police bail pending further enquiries.<sup>133</sup>

2.26 A mosque in Southsea, Portsmouth was vandalised with offensive graffiti painted on its walls.<sup>134</sup>

A white wall on the outside of Jami mosque had a vulgar term painted in thin purple letters. The mosque was previously vandalised in 2010 when someone painted a large red poppy on a wall outside.

The incident was reported to Essex police. No further information is available.

2.27 A mosque in Accrington was damaged after flames from an arson attack on a nearby caravan caused severe damage to four windows.<sup>135</sup>

The incident occurred on Monday 15 December 2014 at approximately 9pm.

Lancashire Police said they were treating the caravan fire as suspicious and were working with the fire and service to establish a cause. They appealed to the public for any information in relation to the incident.

It is not clear if the attack on the mosque was being treated as a racially or religiously aggravated offence.

Lancashire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests have been made in connection with this incident.<sup>136</sup>

2.28 A teenager suffering from Asperger's syndrome was detained under the Mental Health Act following his trial on terrorism charges.

Michael Piggin, 18, plotted a "new Columbine massacre" and was found to have stockpiled nine partially assembled petrol bombs, firework powder, pyrotechnic fuse cord, parts of pipe bombs, improvised explosive devices, air rifles, a gas mask, a crossbow, a camouflage flak jacket and other weaponry. Piggin denied stockpiling the weapons for terrorism purposes.

Piggin drafted a "hit-list" of targets which included his former school, a mosque and a cinema, among other buildings. When searching his property, Piggin's notebook was seized. On the back of the notebook, Piggin had written "F\*\*k Islam – born in England, live in England, die in England". Inside, he wrote he was with the English Defence League in its opposition to the "Islamic invasion of Europe".

At trial, Piggin denied having a problem with "Muslims in general" though photographic evidence was presented of his vandalising a building, spraying on a wall the words "no more mosques".

The jury failed to reach a verdict at his trial in May 2014. Piggin was detained under the Mental Health Act in July 2014.<sup>137</sup>

132. *Chester Chronicle*, 23 October 2014

133. *Liverpool Echo*, 29 October 2014

134. *Portsmouth News*, 18 November 2014

135. *Accrington Observer*, 17 December 2014

136. Freedom of Information request, Lancashire Police, reference 6865/15

137. *The Guardian*, 4 July 2014







## 2.20

Muslim gravestones desecrated  
at Chadderton cemetery, Manchester.



## 2.28

Michael Piggin seen defacing a wall with the slogan 'no more mosques'. The footage was released during his trial in 2014.

- 2.29 Hertfordshire police were investigating a possible arson attack after a fire broke out at the Stevenage Central mosque between 25 and 26 February 2014.

An extractor fan in the mosque's toilets was smashed and flammable liquid poured through the crack and set alight.

Salman Lone, executive committee member for the mosque, said: "This is a major incident. It's the worst thing that has ever happened to the mosque since it was set up 14 years ago."

Hertfordshire police confirmed an incident report. The police said the fire was being investigated as a possible arson but that officers were "looking into a number of possible lines of inquiry"<sup>138</sup>

There is no further information available in connection with this incident.

- 2.30 A "recluse" who told a control room operator he was going to put "a bomb in a mosque" was jailed for 12 months in February 2014.

Nigel Flanagan, 52, put a call to Essex Police control on 8 January 2014 saying he would put a bomb in a mosque adding, "I want to see Muslims hanging in the street and kick the \*\*\*\* out of them".

When police arrived at Bush Fair in Harlow, where Flanagan was making the call, he told the officers "I hate all them Muslims. I just want to bomb the \*\*\*\*\*". He also stated: "I am gonna bomb all their cars" and "I wanna kill a Muslim".

At trial Flanagan admitted to drinking three litres of vodka before making the call. He pleaded guilty to communicating false information with intent to cause a false belief that a bomb was present at a location in Harlow but denied a second offence of religiously aggravated fear of violence.

Sentencing Flanagan to 12 months in prison, judge Anthony Goldstaub said, "England is admired throughout the world rightly for the success of its diverse communities, for the tolerance with which diverse cultures and religions are entertained and for the lawful and peaceful way in which disputes and expressions of opinion are dealt with. It's necessary that these desirable qualities of our society should be preserved and that people who threaten them shall be sentenced in such a way as deters others from following in their footsteps."<sup>139</sup>

- 2.31 A glass door was smashed at a Rotherham mosque during a day of protest against the city's child sex exploitation scandal.<sup>140</sup>

South Yorkshire Police said 10 people were arrested, including a 20 year old man, who was questioned on suspicion of damage to the mosque.

An 18 year old man from Rotherham was arrested on suspicion of assaulting an officer. A 34 year old man and a 44 year old woman from Rotherham were arrested on suspicion of causing racially and religiously aggravated fear, alarm and distress.

Three men from Newark, Cambridge and Nottingham were arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon. A 19 year old man was arrested on suspicion of threatening behaviour. A 25 year old man from Wigan was arrested on suspicion of a public order offence. A 40 year old man from Middlesbrough was arrested on suspicion of assault.

No further information is available in connection with the charges for racially or religiously aggravated offences.

- 2.32 Burglars broke into Chapel Walk mosque in Rotherham in the early hours on 16 September 2014.<sup>141</sup>

They ransacked the mosque's offices, stole money from a collection box and damaged microphone equipment. They also threw copies of the Qur'an on the floor.

Rotherham Council of Mosques chair Saghir Alam said the crime went beyond a burglary

138. *The Comet*, 27 February 2014

139. *Harlow Star*, 5 February 2014

140. *ITV News*, 13 September 2014

141. *Rotherham Advertiser*, 18 September 2014

because the intruders damaged the property and threw a copy of the Qur'an around.

Twitter exchanges ahead of an English Defence League protest in the city on 13 September 2014 showed the addresses of mosques in the city with comments such as "Let's smash them up".

South Yorkshire Police confirmed that officers responded to the burglary, but played down links to it being an anti-Muslim hate crime saying the incident was "connected to a series of burglaries within the town centre."

South Yorkshire police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that no arrests had been made in connection with this incident and the offence is currently filed as 'undetected'.<sup>142</sup>

- 2.33 A nursery in south London was the target of firebomb threats and other abuse after rumours circulated about a child being denied her lunch because "it was not halal".<sup>143</sup>

Kingswood Day Care Nursery in Mitcham, Surrey, received the abuse after a mother posted a message on Facebook stating her daughter, who attends the nursery, was not allowed to eat her chicken sandwich at lunchtime because it was "not halal".

Far right group, Britain First, inflamed the incident by urging supporters to write to the school protesting that "This is not a Muslim country and to demand that all meat is halal is an outrage and blatant discrimination against other religious and ethnic groups."

The nursery denied any such incident had occurred stating the claims were "complete rubbish". The nursery referred the racially and religiously aggravated electronic communications to the police for investigation. The nursery had to suspend its website on account of the volume of abuse received.<sup>144</sup>

- 2.34 A man who sent an email threatening to burn an Edinburgh mosque "to the ground" was fined at Edinburgh Sherriff Court in July 2014.

Andrew Steele, 21, sent the message to an office manager at the Scottish Parliament shortly after the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby.

The email referred to a meeting of the Unite Against Fascism movement at Edinburgh's Central Mosque with Steele suggesting the mosque should be "burned to the f\*\*\*\*\* ground".

The email also contained a screenshot photo of a Scottish Defence League Facebook page which contained several threats in relation to the meeting at the mosque the following day.

When Mr Steele was interviewed by police, he admitted to sending the email because of the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby.

He was fined £200 at Edinburgh Sherriff Court. Sheriff James Scott told him: "Go to a library and get a book, it is now out of print, called 'Who Are The Scots?' They are from all over the world".<sup>145</sup>

- 2.35 A man who sprayed racist graffiti on a number of properties in Blackburn was given a suspended prison sentence in July 2014.

Ethan Hesketh, 24, vandalised property in a predominantly Asian area in Blackburn with graffiti that read "EDL" and other offensive language.

Mr Hesketh also damaged eleven cars and stonework in Shear Brow and a sign belonging to Ab-beydale Vets. He pleaded guilty to five counts of racially aggravated criminal damage and nine further counts of criminal damage at Preston Crown Court.

Hesketh was sentenced to 35 weeks in prison, suspended for two years. He was ordered to re-turn to court to show that he was making progress, attend a thinking skills course and pay £350 prosecution costs. He was electronically tagged with a curfew from 8pm to 6am.<sup>146</sup>

142. Freedom of Information request, South Yorkshire police, *reference 20150656*

143. *This is Local London*, 13 August 2014

144. *London24*, 14 August 2014.

[available at: [http://www.london24.com/news/crime/london\\_nursery\\_in\\_bomb\\_threats\\_over\\_a\\_chicken\\_sandwich\\_1\\_3726139](http://www.london24.com/news/crime/london_nursery_in_bomb_threats_over_a_chicken_sandwich_1_3726139)

145. *Edinburgh Evening News*, 2 July 2014

146. *Lancashire Telegraph*, 2 July 2014

2.36 The proposed mosque on Mill Road in Cambridge was the target of a threat to “burn it” on a website hosting a petition against the planned development.

An online petition against the mosque attracted 1,600 signatures though many appear to be from people who do not live in the city or in the UK.

One of the messages posted on the site read: “If they still build it, burn it.”

The local newspaper, Cambridge News, which reported the story passed details to the police. No further information is available in connection with this incident.<sup>147</sup>

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147. *Cambridge News*, 15 February 2014

### 3. Verbal abuse and hate speech/social media abuse

- 3.1 A soldier was charged with improper use of a communications network after he posted a racially abusive message on Facebook about a murdered three year old Asian child.<sup>148</sup>

On 18 January Warren Butler, 19, wrote on Facebook, “F\*\*\*\*\* LOL to that P\*\*\* found dead. One down many more to go” after drinking approximately 10 bottles of lager alone at his barracks in Aldershot, Hants.

Mr Butler told police that he had a racist background and had attended English Defence League protests in the past.

He pleaded guilty to improper use of a communications network and was given a 16 week sentence, suspended for 18 months and ordered to complete 250 hours community service. He was also ordered to pay £85 costs, an £80 victim surcharge and complete a 12-month supervision order which would include diversity awareness, prejudice training and alcohol awareness.<sup>149</sup>

- 3.2 A man who shouted racist abuse outside a Scottish mosque, shortly after Lee Rigby was murdered in May 2013 was ordered to pay a fine for the offence.<sup>150</sup>

Grant Gallagher, 55, caused a disturbance outside the mosque in Livingston, West Lothian at around 2am. A man witnessed Gallagher’s behaviour from his car and a woman smoking in her garden nearby heard him shouting.

Gallagher shouted: “The soldier was innocent. He didn’t deserve to die – you terrorists killed him,” as he shook the gates of the mosque.

Gallagher was detained and arrested by police and later pled guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner on 26 May 2013. He admitted shouting and swearing and making racist comments.

Gallagher was released with a fine of £150 at Livingston Sheriff Court in September 2014.

- 3.3 A 26 year old man was arrested after he posted racist and offensive tweets made about a murdered three year old Asian child.<sup>151</sup>

Darren Shepstone admitted posting grossly offensive and racially aggravated content on Twitter during a police search to find the missing child.

Mr Shepstone was sentenced to a community order at Derby magistrates and made to attend an alcohol advisory service. He was also ordered to undertake 150 hours of unpaid work and pay £165 court costs.

- 3.4 A German princess appeared in court on charges of threatening to kill Muslims and calling police officers paedophiles during Oktoberfest 2013.<sup>152</sup>

Theodora Sayn-Wittgenstein was accused of telling Muslim first aider, Farah Jasmin Hussain, “I was doing my nails this morning – I wondered how many Muslims I could kill.”

Ms Sayn-Wittgenstein was also charged with assaulting and kicking a fellow guest during the Oktoberfest festival, racially abusing a second guest, then kicking and trying to head-butt a third guest. She was also charged with making homophobic and offensive comments to security staff at the event, resisting arrest and accusing police of being paedophiles.

Sayn-Wittgenstein pleaded guilty to two charges of assault at Dundee Sheriff Court, one of breach of the peace, aggravated by religious prejudice and one breach of the peace under the

148. *BBC News*, 13 February 2014 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-26180304>]

149. *The Mirror*, 11 March 2014

150. *Edinburgh News*, 11 September 2014

151. *BBC News*, 27 February 2014 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-26326440>]

152. *Daily Record*, 11 March 2014

Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act. She was fined £1,000.<sup>153</sup>

- 3.5 Northern Irish pastor James McConnell described Islam as “heathen” and “satanic”, and likened the religion to “a doctrine spawned in hell” in a sermon to a congregation at the Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle Church in May 2014. He went on to tell his congregation that “a new evil had arisen” and that “there are cells of Muslims right throughout Britain”.<sup>154</sup>

The sermon was streamed online and Pastor O’Connell charged with “sending, or causing to be sent, by means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that was grossly offensive”.

Northern Ireland’s first minister Peter Robinson defended the pastor’s comments and claimed that he would not trust Muslims devoted to Sharia law, but would “trust them to go to the shops” for him.

Mr Robinson apologised for any offence caused to Muslims.

McConnell’s case is currently at trial in Belfast Magistrates Court with a second hearing scheduled on 3 September 2015.<sup>155</sup>

- 3.6 A man posted a comment on Facebook inciting religiously aggravated criminal damage in the days after soldier Lee Rigby’s murder in London in May 2013.<sup>156</sup>

Ryan Harbinson, 19, encouraged people to commit terrorist attacks posting the comment: “Anyone up for starting our own series of terrorist attacks, little bit of petroleum would set fire to the mosque nicely :)”.

Written evidence submitted to the court stated that one of Harbinson’s “friends” on Facebook, Molly Duncan, who did not know him in real life, spotted the post shortly after he wrote it.

She posted a screenshot of the offensive comment to Twitter with the caption: “This is why I hate Facebook, people like this don’t realise how racist this is.”

An hour later, one of Miss Duncan’s friends, Mariam Nadeem, saw the tweet and felt “offended and upset” by it. Ms Nadeem told her mother, who was concerned for the safety of her children and called the police.

Mr Harbinson was found guilty of breach of the peace and was fined £1000 at Falkirk Sherriff Court in July 2014.<sup>157</sup>

- 3.7 A man entered a shop and told its Muslim owner “I’m a racist and I kill Muslims,” on the first anniversary of the death of Fusilier Lee Rigby.<sup>158</sup>

Daniel Lee Lewis, 32, walked into the shop on Chester Street in Flint, Wrexham after midnight on 23 May 2014 and asked the owner where he was from and whether he was a Muslim.

The owner replied to say he was Turkish but held a British passport and that he was a Muslim. Mr Lewis then replied, “It’s alright, I won’t cause any trouble. It’s my country, I will do what I want. I’m a racist and I kill Muslims.”

Mr Lewis then spat on the shop floor and invited the shopkeeper outside of the shop for a fight. When the police arrived Mr Lewis said: “It’s one year today to the death of Lee Rigby, there will be thousands of us in Manchester on Saturday,” before chanting “EDL” [English Defence League] at them.

Mr Lewis pleaded guilty to using threatening or abusive words or behaviour with intent to cause racially aggravated fear of or provoke unlawful violence. He also admitted failure to surrender to bail.

He was given an 18 month community order at Wrexham Magistrates Court, supervised by probation and the community mental health team. He was ordered to undertake a 10 day ‘eradi-

153. *Daily Mail*, 26 June 2014

154. *BBC News*, 28 May 2014 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-27604841>]

155. *BBC News*, 6 August 2015. [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-33800704>]

156. *BBC News*, 17 July 2014 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-28354079>]

157. *Daily Record*, 18 July 2014

158. *Live Leader*, 17 July 2014

cating racism and promoting equality programme', and pay £200 in compensation. He was also ordered to pay court costs of £85 and a victim surcharge of £60.

- 3.8 A man subjected a Muslim family to a tirade of verbal abuse as they attempted to move furniture into their new home on Britannia Place, Elswick on 23 March 2014.<sup>159</sup>

As Mr Ali and his family; his wife and three daughters aged 10, 18 and 19, pulled up outside their new home in their car, Daniel McStay, 22, alongside five or six youths punched and kicked their car while shouting "You better not be moving here or we will kill you, this is our estate."

Mr Ali, frantically reversed the car to try and get away when one of the youths threw a pint of beer at the back of his car which smashed covering the car with alcohol and shards of glass.

The incident was reported to the police and Mr Ali said the attack had left him and his family too scared to move in.

Fifteen minutes later McStay and two youths subjected an 18 year old man to a racist attack as he waited in his car for a friend outside Elswick mosque. The man was told to leave the area and had his car kicked.

McStay pleaded guilty to two charges of racially aggravated harassment, racially aggravated criminal damage and possessing cannabis. He was jailed for eight months at Newcastle Crown Court. Two 17 year olds involved in the incident were sent to the youth court.

- 3.9 Two Asian men were subjected to a tirade of racist abuse on a bus in Glasgow in March 2013.<sup>160</sup>

Video footage recorded on a phone showed Stuart McIlreavy, 49, staring threateningly at two men before approaching them and shouting "What, f\*\*\* you."

During the three minute racist rant Mr McIlreavy added: "My brother just got blown up by an IED, ya p\*\*\*\* – anything to do with you?" He was seen shouting, "Shut your f\*\*\*\*\* face" and, "F\*\*\*\*\* stab you in the neck like a f\*\*\*\*\* chicken."

While out of view of the camera, Mr McIlreavy walked to the back of the bus and said "Thank God somebody gave you freedom of speech. My older brother died because of you, f\*\*\*\*\* lucky b\*\*\*\*\*."

He then sat down, but as the two men got up he shouted "F\*\*\*\*\* rats. Look at them."

McIlreavy lied about a relative being killed by the Taliban to justify his foul-mouthed rant and threatened to stab the two men in the neck.

Mr McIlreavy pleaded guilty to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner and was fined £300 at Glasgow Sheriff Court, with the option to pay it off at a rate of £40 a month.

McIlreavy could have been jailed for 12 months for the offence. The court's decision not to pass custodial sentence was criticised by anti-racism campaigners as being "derisory".

Robina Qureshi, executive director of Positive Action In Housing, said: "A £300 fine is derisory and you have to ask if it's enough to deter racists from carrying out future attacks.

"The courts need to look at all sentencing powers available to them, including prison."<sup>161</sup>

- 3.10 A pizza shop owner was verbally abused by a man to whom he offered a tissue to wipe his bloody nose on 14 September.<sup>162</sup>

Craig Anthony Owens, 29, was standing outside Fatso's Pizzeria, in York Road, Hartlepool while in a drunken state. He had a cut to his nose which was bleeding and the owner of the shop, Mahboob Hussain, offered Mr Owens some tissue to stop the bleeding.

However, Mr Owens became abusive and aggressive towards Mr Hussain and said "why would I take that off you, you Muslim, you're not British." Mr Hussain then asked him to move away from the shop, to which he shouted "why should I leave, I'm British." He also shouted "derogatory

159. *Chronicle Live*, 10 August 2014

160. *The Mirror*, 21 September 2014

161. *Daily Record*, 21 September 2014

162. *Hartlepool Mail*, 6 October 2014



terms about Allah”.

Mr Owens pleaded guilty to using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour that was religiously aggravated. He was given a fine of £180, ordered to pay £120 compensation, £85 costs and a £20 victim surcharge at Hartlepool Magistrates’ Court.

- 3.11 A McDonald’s manager in South East London subjected Somali customers to racial abuse when he told them “get the f\*\*\* out of my restaurant,” adding: ‘All you f\*\*\*\*\* Somalians are the same.’<sup>163</sup>

Yasin Farah, 27, and his friends went to McDonald’s in South East London, for breakfast at 5.30am on 2 November 2014. He stated that the manager of the restaurant turned on Farah and his friends when it was their turn to be served saying “Can you not read, can you not see? What do you want for your breakfast?”

When Mr Farah told the manager to “just let him order his breakfast”, the manager replied saying “get the f\*\*\* out of the restaurant”.

The police were called to investigate the incident at the McDonald’s at 5.50am where the manager was arrested. He was subsequently let off with a police caution.

- 3.12 A man was heard shouting racial abuse about wanting to “kill Muslims” after a night out celebrating his brother’s birthday in September 2014.<sup>164</sup>

When arrested, Scott Aaron Vale, 23, swore and accused Muslims of beheading British soldiers.

Mr Vale, admitted using racially aggravated threatening words and obstructing police as he was arrested.

He was fined £75 for each of the offences and ordered to pay £85 costs and £20 victim surcharge at Chelmsford Crown Court.

- 3.13 Three men who posted offensive messages on the “Stop The Astley Bridge Mosque” Facebook page between 19 May and 19 June 2014 were charged with sending racially aggravated malicious communications.<sup>165</sup>

Leon Richmond, 18, wrote that he would not have been bothered if the new mosque in Astley Bridge was built, as he would “blow it up”. Darren Hubble, 23, posted: “Bolton people say no, Wigan says not a chance, I’ll torch the place if I get half the chance”.

Both were charged with racially aggravated malicious communications.<sup>166</sup>

A third man, Andrew Edge, 44, appeared via video link at Wigan Magistrates’ Court on 26 November.<sup>167</sup>

Mr Richmond and Mr Hubble both pleaded guilty to the charges and admitted making Facebook posts to the Stop The Astley Bridge Mosque page, which were indecent or grossly offensive for the purpose of causing distress or anxiety.

Both men were fined £600 at Bolton Magistrates’ Court, as well as being ordered to pay £145 costs.

No further information is available on Edge’s trial and sentencing.

- 3.14 A man who sent grossly offensive cards to an Islamic Community Centre in Cornwall smeared with his dog’s faeces was charged with sending an indecent or grossly offensive letter.<sup>168</sup>

Eric King, 60, sent one picture with a depiction of “Allah” having “relations” with a pig and another with a naked woman sitting on an “Islamic State” flag. Both contained offensive messages.

He took the photographs from a Facebook picture and went to a local store to print them. He

163. *Daily Mail*, 12 November 2014

164. *Hertfordshire Mercury*, 24 November 2014

165. *The Bolton News*, 14 November 2014

166. *The Bolton News*, 5 December 2014

167. *The Bolton News*, 14 November 2014

168. *This is the West Country*, 5 December 2014

then wiped them with dog excrement and sent them to the Islamic Centre.

Mr King pleaded guilty to sending an indecent or grossly offensive letter to Tipu Choudhury at the Cornwall Islamic Community Centre and sending two indecent or grossly offensive messages on Facebook.

One of the messages he posted on Facebook claimed it was sacrilege for the centre to have replaced the former Christian church with the “evil of the Muslim religion” and told Muslims to “Get out of the country”.

When the police spoke to him, Mr King claimed “There will be a war soon” and that he did not like anything related to Islam. He also said that he was a member of the English Defence League and Britain First.

He was sentenced to eight weeks in prison suspended for one year at Truro magistrates in December 2014. He was also ordered to comply with a curfew between 10am to 10pm on Fridays, Saturdays, Mondays and Tuesdays for twenty weeks and pay £200 in compensation to Mr Choudhury.<sup>169</sup>

Mr King was also made subject to a restraining order not to contact the Islamic Centre by any means nor to enter Quenchwell Road, ordered to pay £80 towards prosecution costs and a further £80 victim surcharge.

- 3.15 A supporter of the English Defence League posted a picture of himself burning a copy of the Qur'an and claiming the book was evil on Facebook.<sup>170</sup>

Lee Joshua, 43, was arrested in July 2013 when he was involved in clashes with police during a protest rally at which 30 officers were injured after being pelted with paving slabs and bottles in Birmingham .

During the protest a Muslim prayer cap and a Pakistani flag were also set on fire in the street.

Mr Joshua was sentenced alongside other EDL supporters, Jake Hill, James Harrington and Adam Beebee who all admitted violent disorder.

Mr Harrington, 30, attempted to hit a police officer using a placard and racist text messages were found on his mobile phone after he was arrested.

Mr Beebee, 28, was involved in two separate incidents of disorder and admitted trying to “have a ruck” with counter-demonstrators.

Mr Joshua was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment at Birmingham Crown Court, Mr Hill was jailed for 22 months, Mr Harrington was jailed for 2 years and Mr Beebee was sentenced to 13 months imprisonment.

- 3.16 While being spoken to by police, a man shouted abuse at people who were walking toward a mosque across the road.<sup>171</sup>

Phillip Anthony Townley, 56, shouted at Muslim onlookers saying he would “burn down their mosque.” He pleaded guilty to racially-aggravated threatening behaviour.

He was sentenced to 20 weeks in prison at Blackburn magistrates, which was suspended for 18 months, subject to an electronically-monitored curfew between 8pm and 8am for six weeks. He was also ordered to pay £280 costs.

- 3.17 A Liberal Democrat councillor resigned after Highland Council accused him of sharing anti-Islamic material from the far-right group Britain First on social media in October 2014.<sup>172</sup>

Drew Millar of Skye wrote: “Nick Clegg says teaching British values in schools could offend moderate Muslims – share if you think Nick Clegg is a cretin.”<sup>173</sup>

Millar claimed he was unaware the material was from the far right group. The Facebook posts

169. *West Briton*, 17 December 2014

170. *Daily Mirror*, 11 December 2014

171. *Lancashire Telegraph*, 17 December 2014

172. *BBC News*, 24 October 2014

173. *West Highland Free Press*, 24 October 2014.

have since been removed.

Councillor Millar was asked to stand down from his position as chair of the Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee whilst an investigation into the allegations took place.

He declined to do so and subsequently resigned from Highland Council and left the Liberal Democrat party.

- 3.18 A teacher at a school in Birmingham was suspended after anti-Muslim messages were found on his Facebook page.<sup>174</sup>

Jonathan Parker, a sports instructor at Washwood Heath Academy was sent home towards the end of the school year in July 2014 pending an investigation into the allegations.

He was suspended for one month at the start of the academic year in September 2014.<sup>175</sup>

One of the messages Parker allegedly wrote read: "Muslims cause paedophilia" and another stated "Sainsbury have run out of pork chops. I blame the Muslims. Vote UKIP."

Parker worked at the school, where a large number of pupils are Muslim, for approximately five years.

He claimed the private Facebook posts were not opinions he genuinely held but satirical comments mocking UKIP's campaign slogans.

A spokesman for the trustees of Washwood Heath Academy said: "We can confirm that a member of staff has been suspended. Investigations are ongoing and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage."

No further information is available in relation to any disciplinary action taken by the school.

- 3.19 A former BBC radio presenter, Sam Mason, made a number of offensive Facebook comments in August 2014 directed towards British Muslims and Pakistanis.<sup>176</sup>

Mason, 45, was dismissed from Radio Bristol in 2008 following a call to a taxi firm where she made racist remarks about Asian drivers.

When discussing the Rotherham child sex abuse scandal on Facebook, she posted "dirty dirty filthy p\*\*\* Rotherham b\*\*\*\*\*ds" on a public page.

Another post read: "Being British isn't about what colour or religion you are. It's how you treat your neighbour.

"How you respect one another, how you integrate, respect and embrace each other's cultures.

"It's NOT about hard line radical retarded extremists who try to infiltrate our schools and prey on our children.

"It's not about sending your wife out looking like Darth Vader and trying to change our country into the s\*\*\* forsaken desert you came from.

"So please do us all a favour, come here and be BRITISH and if thats too much for you, please do f\*\*\* off." (sic)

She also welcomed Boris Johnson's decision to stand as a Conservative candidate in 2015 as he would "deal with these murderous Muslims."

Ms Mason's aggressive social media posts garnered 100-plus comments in support of her views.<sup>177</sup>

She attempted to explain the comments stating on 29 August 2014: "It's not about colour or religion. It's about right and wrong. I don't feel I have to apologise to the Muslim community, as my 'rant'

174. *Birmingham Mail*, 10 October 2014.

175. *Asian Voice*, 13th October 2014

176. *Western Daily Press*, 29 August 2014

177. *Bristol Post*, 29 August 2014

was about the radicals and most certainly not about the Muslim community we love and embrace.”

No further information is available in relation to this incident.

- 3.20 Several complaints were made to Torfaen Council after a councillor used the term “muzzy” in a post on Facebook in late August 2014.<sup>178</sup>

Mike Harris, an Independent councillor elected in 2012 to represent the Pontypool ward on Torfaen Borough council, posted the remark “Once a Muzzy!” alongside an article in the Daily Mail about the reported executions of 11 suspected informers by Hamas.

Harris, who also serves as a chairman of the Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, defended his post asserting “it is not racist” and denied “muzzy” was an anti-Muslim slur.

Harris claimed the post was intended to indicate that “They are executing people so they must be confused and not able to think clearly or muzzy as it says in the dictionary.”

A council spokesman confirmed that an investigation had been referred to the Public Service Ombudsman. He said: “Complaints that a councillor may have breached the Code should be made to the Ombudsman and the Ombudsman will decide whether or not to investigate.”

In May 2015 Torfaen Council’s Ethics and Standards Committee, having investigated Cllr Harris’ comment, ruled that it was offensive.<sup>179</sup>

However, the committee decided that Harris would not face any disciplinary action as he did not breach any code of conduct due to “the higher level of protection afforded for political expression to Cllr Harris under both the common law and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.”

- 3.21 A UKIP candidate in Brent made offensive remarks about Muslims in an email sent to the local council’s planning chiefs in May 2013.<sup>180</sup>

Heino Vockrodt, 52, sent messages which included a comment that Islam was against “everything modern Britain stands for.”

The email correspondence showed Vockrodt call owners of the town hall “Yes-Sayers, Appeasement Chamberlains and look-The-Other-Way cowards” for allowing an Afghan centre to be built in Willesden, north west London.

He wrote: “...just like in all the other cases where Muslims are grooming sex slaves under the eyes of the authorities, the council does NOTHING for political correctness (not that there is any).”

He added: “All the old owners of the neighbouring shops have been squeezed out by Muslims. The entire parade – once lovely owner/occupier shops – resembles Helmand province now.

“Time to call MI5 & MI6 for sure.”

“Islam is a mono-cultural, totalitarian ideology. It is NOT a religion. It is against multi-culturalism and only promotes its own culture. It is against everything modern Britain stands for.”

Vockrodt stood as a UKIP candidate in the Dudden Ward seat on Brent Council in May 2014.

- 3.22 A UKIP candidate for the Royton South ward on Oldham Council was deselected by the party after she made anti-Muslim comments on Facebook in early May 2014.<sup>181</sup>

Jackie Garnett posted a comment calling for “mosques to be knocked down and Islam to be banned”. She also commented on a link to an article on the Oldham Chronicle’s Facebook page on 11 April 2014 in which she wrote: “I’m voting UKIP to do my bit to save Oldham before Labour turn it into a total Muslim ghetto.”

178. *South Wales Argus*, 28 August 2014

179. *South Wales Argus*, 10 June 2015

180. *Kilburn Times*, 14 May 2014.

181. *Oldham Chronicle*, 9 May 2014

UKIP barred Garnett from contesting the seat for the party in the 2014 local elections.

- 3.23 A Conservative council candidate resigned from the party after his anti-Muslim comments on Twitter were exposed.

David Bishop, a candidate in Brentwood South, Essex, expressed regret after retweeting offensive messages about Muslims.<sup>182</sup>

Bishop tweeted a message on 27 April 2014, two days after he was announced as a Conservative council candidate, which read: “#Islam ‘the religion of peace’ & rape.”

In a statement, Bishop apologised “for the real offence caused” and said he would “not be asking anyone to vote for me on May 22.”

- 3.24 A teacher and former UK Independence Party politician was banned from teaching after posting several offensive messages on Twitter.<sup>183</sup>

Ron Northcott, 66, was forced to resign from UKIP in May 2013 after accusing “Jocks”, an offensive term for Scots, of being “workshy addicts.”<sup>184</sup>

In 2013, he made insulting comments about Catholics, Muslims and migrants and after an investigation by the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL), a disciplinary panel found him guilty of unacceptable professional conduct and of bringing teaching into disrepute in March 2014.

The panel chair, Mary Speakman, said: “We find many of the views expressed to be in conflict with fundamental British values.

“Much of the language is inflammatory and abusive. Many of the posts express intolerant attitudes to ethnicity, religious beliefs and nationalities.”

Northcott admitted making the comments, but denied that the messages were an example of unacceptable professional conduct. He did not appear before the panel.<sup>185</sup>

The panel recommended that he must wait five years before challenging the ban.

Northcott taught at St Boniface’s Roman Catholic college in Plymouth, Devon.

- 3.25 On 18 January 2014 approximately 150 demonstrators from the far-right group East Anglian Patriots marched in Lincoln to demonstrate against the building of a mosque in Boultham Park Road.<sup>186</sup>

The protestors threatened to set fire to the proposed place of worship, chanting “burn the poppy, we will burn the mosque” as they walked through City Square in Lincoln.

There was a large police presence throughout the city on that day, but no reports of arrests.

- 3.26 Several people were arrested by police following an English Defence League demonstration in Sunderland on 29 March 2014.<sup>187</sup>

The far-right group were protesting against plans to build an Islamic Centre in the city.

Six men were arrested for disorder offences and five were released on bail pending further inquiries.

Graham Eddy, 44, was charged with disorderly conduct and was scheduled to appear at Sunderland Magistrates’ Court on 14 April 2014.

No further information is available on arrests or sentences in relation to this incident.

- 3.27 A British National Party (BNP) leaflet was distributed in the London Borough of Enfield in

182. *BBC News*, 4 May 2014.

183. *The Scotsman*, 10 March 2014

184. *Plymouth Herald*, 18 May 2013

185. *Western Morning News*, 9 March 2014

186. *Lincolnshire Echo*, 18 January 2014

187. *Sunderland Echo*, 31 March 2014

January 2014.<sup>188</sup>

The leaflet asked residents if they were: “Alarmed by the threat of Islam to your British Identity?”

It claimed that ‘British identity’ was being ‘threatened’ by local planning applications for “converting churches and pubs into Islamic centres” and mosques. The leaflet also warned against “organised Muslim sex gangs.”<sup>189</sup>

The leaflet further claimed that the BNP were supporting animal rights, describing halal food as “ritual slaughter;” “barbaric” and a practice which “belongs somewhere 5,000 years ago”.

A BNP spokesman said party members were canvassing the local borough because Muslims are turning London “into a foreign country” with the “wholesale repression of the British and English population”.

Enfield North MP Nick de Bois criticised the BNP’s leaflet and accused them of “attempting to create tension for political gain.”

- 3.28 Chairman of the far-right party Liberty GB and a candidate in the 2014 European Parliament elections in the South East region, Paul Weston, was arrested on suspicion of religious or racial hatred after he publicly cited incendiary passages about Islam from Winston Churchill’s book ‘The River War’.

Weston, on the steps of Winchester Guildhall, cited an excerpt from the book:

“How dreadful are the curses which Mohammedanism lays on its votaries! Besides the fanatical frenzy, which is as dangerous in a man as hydrophobia in a dog, there is this fearful fatalistic apathy.

“The effects are apparent in many countries. Improvident habits, slovenly systems of agriculture, sluggish methods of commerce, and insecurity of property exist wherever the followers of the Prophet rule or live.

“A degraded sensualism deprives this life of its grace and refinement; the next of its dignity and sanctity.

“The fact that in Mohammedan law every woman must belong to some man as his absolute property – either as a child, a wife, or a concubine – must delay the final extinction of slavery until the faith of Islam has ceased to be a great power among men.

“Thousands become the brave and loyal soldiers of the faith: all know how to die but the influence of the religion paralyses the social development of those who follow it.

“No stronger retrograde force exists in the world. Far from being moribund, Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytizing faith.”

Police officers arrested Weston during the speech for refusing to comply with their request to move on under the powers of a dispersal order made against him following complaints from the public about his behaviour.

A Hampshire Police spokesman confirmed “A 50-year-old man from Dorset was arrested outside Winchester Guildhall at approximately 2.30pm on Saturday, April 26 after he failed to comply with a section 27 dispersal order.

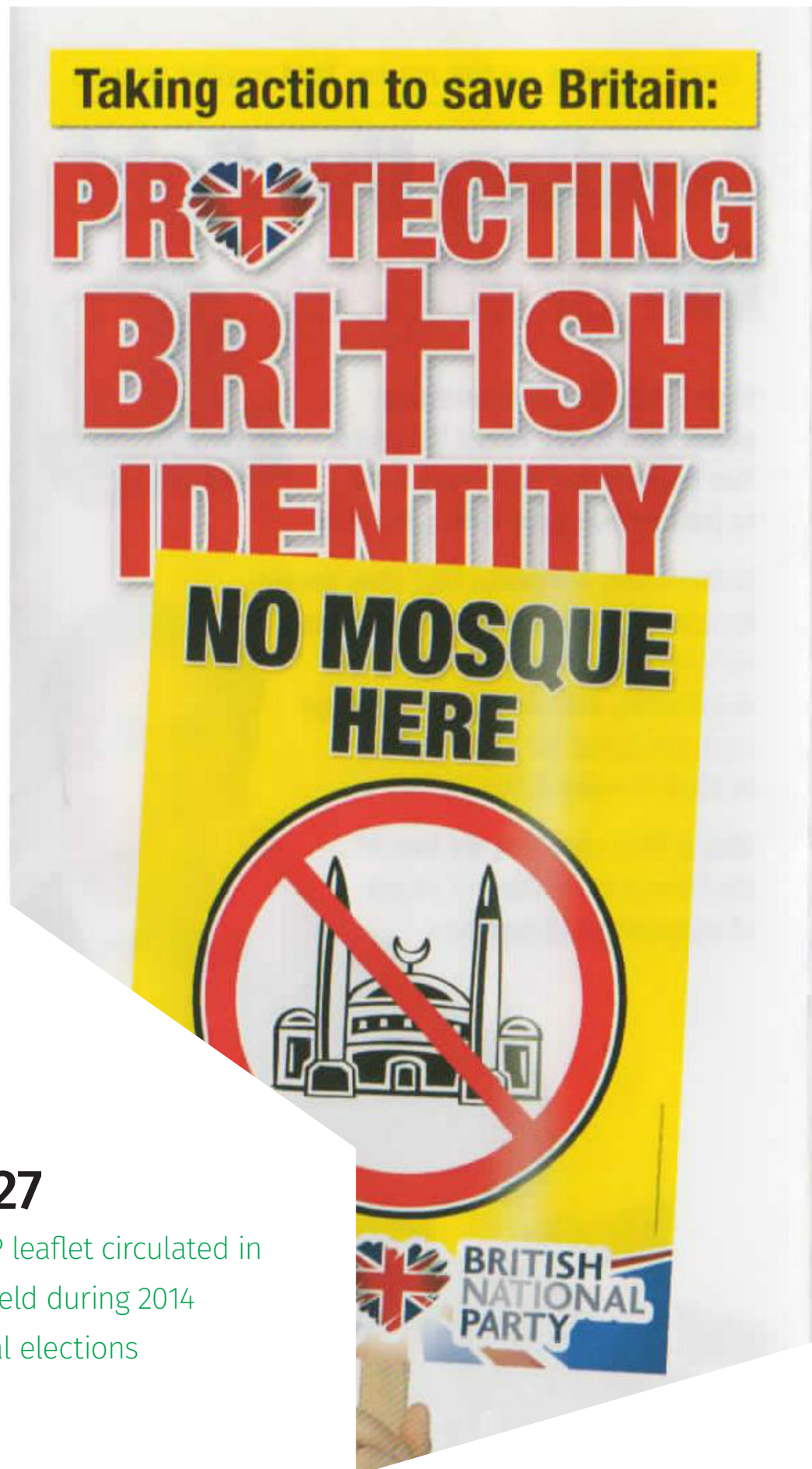
“The dispersal order was issued following complaints from members of the public about the man’s behaviour.

“He was further arrested on suspicion of religious or racial harassment. He has been bailed pending further inquiries to report back to police on May 24.”

Liberty GB’s website reported on 11 June 2014 that the charges against Weston were dropped and that Hampshire Police had sent this statement to Weston:

188. *The Enfield Independent*, 16 January 2014.

189. *This is Local London*, 16 January 2014



### 3.27

BNP leaflet circulated in Enfield during 2014 local elections

“You were bailed on 26th April 2014, under the provision of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 in connection with an allegation of a breach of a S27 dispersal notice and a Racial/ Religious Aggravated Section 4 Public Order Offence. Police enquiries have now been completed and after careful consideration of all the circumstances, it has been decided that no further police action will be taken. However, if further significant evidence becomes available at a later date, the decision may be reconsidered and the advice of the Crown Prosecution Service sought.”<sup>190</sup>

- 3.29 Arthur Thackeray, chief of staff to UK Independence Party MEP David Coburn posted comments on Facebook expressing support for the far right groups, the English and Scottish Defence Leagues in late November 2014.

He also discussed taking part in protests held by the SDL in Glasgow in 2012 and the EDL in Blackpool in October 2011, with “patriots old and new”.<sup>191</sup>

He showed support for the far-right groups in a post on 3 September, 2011, writing: “I personally support the aims and objectives of the Defence Leagues. Ukip has no official party line on this issue.”

A day earlier, the date of an English Defence League protest in London, Thackeray wrote: “To all London-bound patriots... stand proud and stay safe NS (no surrender).”

When another activist urged people to join the EDL to stop “Muslim paedophile gangs”, Thackeray replied: “Good post.”

Thackeray remains Chief of Staff in the office of UKIP MEP for the Scotland region, David Coburn.

- 3.30 The UK Independence Party’s immigration spokesperson and MEP for London, Gerard Batten, endorsed a five point ‘Proposed Charter of Muslim Understanding’ which called for verses of the Qur’an to be “either deferred or suspended until such time as scholars find a solution for their interpretation.”<sup>192</sup>

The Charter contains five ‘articles’ which the author encourages the Muslim Council of Britain, Al Azhar, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Muslim World League to endorse and sign “as an example to all European Muslims.”<sup>193</sup>

Article 5 of the proposed Charter states:

“[A]ll Qur’anic Jihad verses encouraging physical violence, whether implicit or explicit, or any other quotations from any Islamic source, be that Sunnah or the sayings of the Prophet or that of the learned scholars or leaders of Jihad at any given time or place are to be regarded as inapplicable, invalid and non-Islamic.

“All Qur’anic verses that could be regarded as inciting discrimination on the grounds of religion, ethnicity or gender are just historical and will be regarded as non-effective for today’s world.

“These verses will be either deferred or suspended until such time as scholars find a solution for their interpretation.”

Batten stood as London mayoral candidate for UKIP in the 2008 elections. A video published by The Guardian newspaper in 2014 shows Batten explaining that as Mayor he would “refuse all planning applications for mosques in London until there is a place of non-Muslim worship in Mecca and Medina.”<sup>194</sup>

He said it was “a big mistake to allow this explosion in mosques across the land” and that it is “estimated that half are run by extremists”.

Batten was re-elected MEP for the London region in the 2014 European Parliament elections.

- 3.31 A former marine and ex-UK Independence Party candidate in the South Cambridgeshire District Council elections, was put on trial for sending “grossly offensive” communications to a mosque

190. *Libertygb.org.uk*, 11 June 2014

191. *Daily Mirror*, 29 November 2014

192. *The Independent*, 5 February 2014

193. *The Guardian*, 4 February 2014

194. *The Guardian*, 4 February 2014

[video accessible at: <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/video/2014/feb/04/ukip-mep-gerard-batten-explosion-mosques-video>]



in Cambridge and posting anti-Muslim slurs on his Facebook page accompanied by a photo of a pig's head in August 2014.<sup>195</sup>

Cambridge Magistrates' Court heard that Ian Crouch, 54, sent the email to the mosque in Kirkwood Road, Cambridge, on August 20 after news coverage of the beheading of American journalist, James Foley, by ISIS, angered him.

Crouch is said to have emailed the mosque a "grossly offensive" message which was opened by the mosque's receptionist, Abdul Muquith, a local taxi driver.

The court also heard that when arrested, police found a pig's head in Crouch's refrigerator.

Lead magistrate Marisa Johnson rejected Crouch's defence of 'freedom of expression' saying Crouch was attempting to defend the "indefensible."

She said: "We find the email was offensive – we are offended by it and it had the intention of causing offence and distress to the people who received it.

"We consider it a hate crime and are looking at a custodial sentence with a six-week starting point.

"We can't tolerate this kind of behaviour from anyone which is likely to make matters worse for people in the community."

Cambridgeshire County Council UKIP party association group leader, Paul Bullen, said Crouch was no longer a member of the party having been removed for his "anti-Islamic" views.

Crouch was handed a 12 weeks' suspended sentence in January 2015. He was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £80, £420 towards the prosecution's costs and complete a six-month alcohol treatment programme.<sup>196</sup>

- 3.32 A UK Independence Party member, Malcolm Jackson, had his membership revoked by the party after he attended a 'mega-mosque' demonstration in Rochester organised by the far right group, Britain First.<sup>197</sup>

Jackson said that he was not affiliated to Britain First and had only joined the demo to protest against the "evil cult of Islam taking over yet another part of our country."

Jackson said "All I have done is take part, last Saturday 15 Nov 2014, in a march organised by Britain First, to demonstrate against a Mega Mosque being built on the borders of Rochester and Gillingham."

"If I had been with the crowd of left-wing thugs opposing the march against the Mega Mosque, would Ukip have made the decision to rescind my membership?"

Jackson's expulsion came after UKIP canvassers in the Rochester and Strood by-election were pictured with Britain First candidate Jayda Fransen.

- 3.33 On 11 October 2014, a number of far-right groups joined together for a protest against the Muslim faith school, Madani Academy, in Portsmouth.

Anti-Muslim protesters wore balaclavas as they threw coins in Portsmouth's Guildhall Square and marched through the city's streets shouting profanities.<sup>198</sup>

Hampshire police had to form a line between around 40 protesters and some anti-fascist campaigners outside the city's mosque to deter violence.

The protesters intended on demonstrating on Albert Road, but this was prohibited by police due to the large number of Asian businesses in the area.

Hampshire Constabulary confirmed that "One man, aged in his 40's from the Portsmouth area, was arrested on suspicion of a public order offence. He is being questioned in police custody.

195. *Cambridge News*, 12 January 2015

196. *Cambridge News*, 31 January 2015

197. *International Business Times*, 19 November 2014

198. *The Portsmouth News*, 13 October 2014

No further information is available in connection with this incident. It is not known if the public order offence was racially or religiously aggravated.

- 3.34 The British National Party exploited the robbery of war medals from a war veteran by describing his ordeal on one of their campaign posters in the run-up to the 2014 European Elections.

A former infantryman, George Gill, was robbed of his war medals while walking to a Remembrance Day ceremony in Keighley, West Yorkshire by individuals described as being of Asian appearance. Mr Gill's beret and poppy were also forcibly removed during the attack.<sup>199</sup>

The BNP produced a poster with a picture of Mr Gill wearing his army beret and titled it "Muslim gang steal medals after attacking British Army veteran."

The poster state: "Enough is enough. Help protect our heritage and people".

Mr Gill told the local paper he had no idea of the BNP's exploitation of the incident saying "I think it is disgusting and ridiculous."

It is not known if the leaflet was referred to the police for incitement to racial or religious hatred.

- 3.35 A female cashier at a Lidl supermarket store in Balsall Heath, Birmingham was heard repeatedly swearing at a customer calling him "Mohammed", asking if he was a Muslim, and telling him: "Go. Go. Go on, you Muslim, die."<sup>200</sup>

The incident which happened on 14 January 2014 started when the male customer required some help with carrier bags. The cashier said to him: "Are you Muslim? Are you Muslim? You're not a good Muslim. You're not a good Muslim."

The customer said the cashier must be "having a bad day" and was "taking it out on me."

The cashier replied: "No, how dare you? He's not bothering me. I've been here 10 years. I was having a good day until I saw your f\*\*\*ing face. Go. Go. Go on, you Muslim, die. Arrogant man. Arrogant Muslim man."

It is not known if the incident was reported to the store's manager or to the police.

- 3.36 Three men connected to the English Defence League and one of its splinter groups, the English Volunteer Force (EVF) were caught on CCTV threatening to attack a mosque in Purley, Croydon. The men are seen in video footage ringing the doorbell of Anjuman-e-Zaini mosque on 19 January 2014 with one man telling the camera: "This here is an illegal mosque. There's no council permission, there's no sign saying it's a mosque. Yet we've seen people coming in and out of here for prayers and all sorts of other business."<sup>201</sup>

A second man was asked to press the doorbell again and when nobody answered he said: "Next Friday we're coming back and we really are going to have this place."

The man also invited others to join him when he returns to the building, while another threatened to cover it in stickers. He added: "We don't want to spoil the surprise for the muzzies."

The news site that reported the incident alerted the mosque who contacted Croydon Police. In a statement, the police said: "We are aware of this online article and we are currently liaising with the Islamic Centre on this issue."

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

- 3.37 A man posted a comment on Facebook about burning down a mosque in the wake of Lee Rigby's murder, in June 2013.<sup>202</sup>

Fiscal depute David Bernard said: "On July 13 police received information that a comment of a racially motivated nature and thought to incite racial hatred had been posted on Facebook social network site on a page pertaining to the Scottish Defence League.

One of the comments had been from a user account in the name of Derek Phin on June 30, 2013

199. *Telegraph and Argus*, 14 November 2014

200. *Daily Mail*, 17 January 2014

201. *Croydon Advertiser*, January 22 2014.

202. *Scottish Television*, 31 January 2014

as part of a conversation about a Unite Against Fascism campaign to be held at an Edinburgh mosque on 2 July 2013. The comment attributed to Phin read “burn the mosque down when the meeting is ongoing”.

Derek Phin, 46, appeared at Aberdeen Sheriff Court where he pleaded guilty to posting the threatening and abusive remark with religious prejudice. Phin was jailed for 12 months at Aberdeen Sherriff Court on 28 February 2014.<sup>203</sup>

- 3.38 A Scottish Muslim Government Minister was racially abused while taking part in a charity initiative to raise awareness about homelessness as part of International Street Paper Vendor Week, in February 2014.<sup>204</sup>

Humza Yousaf, Minister for External Affairs and International Development, was verbally abused while selling copies of the Big Issue outside Queen Street station in Glasgow.

A video recording of the incident shows Christopher Chisholm, 30, refusing to buy a copy of the magazine from Mr Yousaf, telling him: “You’re not from my country, mate.”<sup>205</sup>

When Yousaf explained that he was born in Scotland, Chisholm told him “Aye maybe you were but the rest of the people weren’t.”

Chisholm was also captured on film saying “Take a photo of that mate, that’s a benefit locust,” gesturing in Yousaf’s direction. He was also filmed uttering the words “f\*\*\*\*\* benefit locust” and “charity begins at home.”

Mr Chisholm pleaded guilty to a breach of the peace and a racist offence. In June 2015, he was sentenced at Glasgow Sherriff Court to a 12 months’ community payback order with the condition of supervision and 90 hours of unpaid work within six months.<sup>206</sup>

- 3.39 Four men and a woman were arrested by Thames Valley Police in connection with offences committed during a protest in Berkshire on 28 February 2014.<sup>207</sup>

Disorder broke out when a group of 15-20 people gathered in Thatcham, some of whom had previously indicated they were members of the English Defence League (EDL).

The charges brought against some of the individuals were concerning “racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress”.

Julie Anne Worthington, 35, was charged with two counts of racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress and two counts of using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

Edward Scovell, 43, Robert Brammer, 50, Gary Hazel, 38, and Rory Rowbotton, 22 were charged with one count of racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress and one count of using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

All five appeared at Newbury Magistrates’ Court on 1 May 2014.

Mr Hazel was fined £200 and ordered to pay £200 costs plus a statutory victim surcharge of £20. Mr Brammer was fined £150 with £100 costs and £20 surcharge. Mr Rowbottom and Miss Worthington were each fined £100 with £100 costs and £20 surcharge. A warrant was issued for Mr Scovell’s arrest.<sup>208</sup>

- 3.40 A woman who challenged a woman’s drunken, anti-Muslim, racist rant on a bus on 2 November 2013 was physically attacked and spat on.<sup>209</sup>

Christine Dare told Tara Elaine King to keep her opinions to herself and moderate her language after she was heard repeating racist remarks and praising the English Defence League. Dare also

203. *BBC News*, 28 February 2014. available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-26382115>

204. *Herald Scotland*, 20 February 2014

205. *The Scotsman*, 5 August 2014

206. *STV News*, 16 June 2015. available at: <http://news.stv.tv/west-central/1323039-christopher-chisholm-spared-jail-racist-abuse-at-humza-yousaf-msp/>

207. *BBC News*, 11 April 2014 [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-26985449>]

208. *Newbury Today*, 8 September 2014.

209. *Newbury Today*, 22 July 2014

approached the bus driver and asked him to act but was told to sit down. King then leaned over and spat on her.

During the attack CCTV showed both women holding onto each other's hair, with King scratching Ms Dare's face.

The bus then pulled into a layby and a man came to Ms Dare's assistance. Police were called and as Ms King was led away she was heard telling Ms Dare: "Look at my face so I can remember you."

Initially, Ms King denied assault by beating at Newbury magistrates however she later changed her plea to guilty, while not accepting that she spat on Ms Dare. She admitted causing racially aggravated harassment, alarm or distress on 2 November 2013.

Magistrates judge Sue Campbell said: "This was a very distressing, offensive and unpleasant incident which took place in public.

"There are many aggravating features all options remain open, including custody."

No further information is available on sentencing in connection with this incident.

- 3.41 A semi naked man in a "burqa" was filmed outside Zakariyya mosque in Daubhill, Bolton doing an ice bucket challenge.<sup>210</sup>

The clip shows the man, clutching a packet of bacon, with sausages dangling between his legs and being drenched in water. While wearing only his underwear, socks, shoes and a makeshift "burqa", he makes several offensive remarks about Islam.

Another man who poured water over his head is heard telling him to hurry up, to which the man responds saying he is "not scared".

The police said the video was filmed sometime between midnight on August 24 and 5pm on August 25. PC Mel Jackson said: "We are aware of a video. The content is offensive and has caused distress in the local community - a hate incident has been recorded and is being investigated."

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

- 3.42 A teacher was suspended by Bolton Council after she made a comment about a Muslim student's headscarf.<sup>211</sup>

The incident which was reported to Greater Manchester police and Bolton Council by parents of the child occurred at Sunning Hill Primary School in Daubhill on 10 September 2014.

A Muslim girl at the school was fidgeting with her headscarf when the teacher was heard saying: "If she was in my class I would chuck the scarf in the bin."

Bolton Council said the teacher had been suspended pending an investigation.

A statement by the police said: "An incident was reported to us on Wednesday evening at 10pm."

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

- 3.43 More than 1,000 comments, some of which contain anti-Islamic and racist abuse, were posted on South Yorkshire Police's Facebook page in response to a message by the force thanking members of the public for a peaceful Muslim Youth demonstration in Rotherham.<sup>212</sup>

Senior officers were criticised for failing to take down the messages, some of which threatened violence to fellow Muslim Facebook users who were blamed for a child abuse scandal in Rotherham.

A spokeswoman for South Yorkshire Police said it did not intend to remove the comments but would investigate any which appeared to break the law.

- 3.44 A 36 year old man from Wirral was arrested on suspicion of posting racist comments on Facebook in relation to a mosque in Ellesmere Port in September 2014.

210. *The Bolton News*, 10 September 2014

211. *The Bolton News*, 13 September 2014

212. *Yorkshire Post*, 22 September 2014

He was held on suspicion of distributing written material online as a means to create racial hatred against a mosque. The man was released on police bail with no further action by Cheshire Police expected.

Assistant chief constable Guy Hindle said: “We are reminding users of social media that this type of behaviour is not acceptable and will not be tolerated by Cheshire Police.

“It wouldn’t be tolerated on the streets so why should we tolerate it on social media?”

“Anyone who chooses to post comments online which are racist, or contain religious hatred will be traced, investigated and where possible, prosecuted.”<sup>213</sup>

- 3.45 A man sprayed anti-Muslim graffiti at several locations in Livingston on Saturday 4 October 2014. The racist slogans were sprayed in red paint in the Dedridge area in West Lothian, at approximately 2am.<sup>214</sup>

Police Scotland issued a public appeal to identify the culprit describing his appearance and stating the suspect may have been “wearing yellow ‘Marigold’ gloves”.

Freedom Police Scotland responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that despite a lengthy enquiry, no charges were brought and the case is now closed.<sup>215</sup>

- 3.46 A man appeared for sentencing at Isle of Wight Magistrates Court after pleading guilty to one count of harassment without violence and one count of racially or religiously aggravated harassment without violence.<sup>216</sup>

Carl Philip Worrall, 47, the English Defence League’s Isle of Wight organiser, appeared before Magistrates’ court on 19 December 2014 in connection with the two incidents which occurred between October 27 and 1 November at a coffee shop in Newport, Isle of Wight.

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

- 3.47 A 19-year-old from Leeds, West Yorkshire, was arrested in connection with a video he posted on a social media website of him burning a copy of the Qur’an.<sup>217</sup>

The video showed him ripping apart an English translation of the Qur’an with his teeth and putting it in the toilet before burning it.

Leeds District Police arrested the teenager on 27 December 2014 on suspicion of a racially or religiously aggravated public order offence.

West Yorkshire Police responded to a Freedom of Information request to disclose that this investigation is still ongoing.<sup>218</sup>

- 3.48 Muslims in Rochdale expressed concern over the rise in anti-Muslim prejudice felt by the local community since news of the child sex grooming scandals broke in 2012.<sup>219</sup>

The publication of a report into the failings by local agencies by Professor Alexis Jay in August 2014 was claimed to have led to an increase in Islamophobic abuse. Muhbeen Hussain of British Muslim Youth said that he had been called a “Muslim groomer” by a passer-by when taking part in a TV interview in the wake of the report. He added, “That has not happened to me once, it has happened on a number of occasions.”<sup>220</sup>

It is not clear if such cases of verbal abuse were reported to the police.

- 3.49 The Sun newspaper columnist, Katie Hopkins, tweeted highly offensive messages in the aftermath of the Rotherham child sex abuse report by Professor Alexis Jay in August 2014.

In tweets to her nearly 200,000 followers in late August 2014 Hopkins accused Muslims of en-

213. *Liverpool Echo*, 24 September 2014

214. *BBC News*, 5 October 2014 [available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-29499855>]

215. Freedom of Information request, Police Scotland. *no reference number provided*.

216. *The Isles of Wight County Press*, 18 December 2014

217. *Yorkshire Standard*, 29 December 2014

218. Freedom of Information request, West Yorkshire Police, *reference 00724/15*

219. *Manchester Evening News*, 18 November 2014

220. *BBC Newsbeat*, 18 September 2014.

Available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/29256504/muslim-hate-crime-has-risen-in-rotherham-says-youth-worker>

dorsing the “rape [of] young white girls,” and said the Rotherham child abuse scandal was about race and “Pakistani rape of white girls.”<sup>221</sup>

The editor of *The Sun*, David Dinsmore responded to our complaint about Hopkins’ article stating:

“I should first point out that the *Sun* is not responsible for the Twitter postings of our contributors, nor does it agree with everything they say. Katie’s opinions on Twitter, some of which can be questionable on a number of subjects, are her own.

“We take great care in what we publish on our platforms. Katie’s column tomorrow does not include any reference to the Prophet Mohammed, nor any suggestion that Islam condones rape. Her central piece revolves around whether Shaun Wright should resign from his post of police commissioner. She does express a view that some of those responsible for these terrible acts may have had a perverse and twisted view of the Islamic religion. This has been voiced elsewhere. I hope this reassures you somewhat.”

Hopkins has since been referred to the Metropolitan Police Service by the Society of Black Lawyers over a column in which she described migrants as “cockroaches” and urged the use of “gunships” to keep them from entering Europe. The Society of Black Lawyers reported the tweets as inciting racial hatred.<sup>222</sup>

Hopkins has also been referred to Greater Manchester Police by the Labour MP, Simon Danczuk, after she posted comments accusing him of befriending “Pakistani friends [who] saw young white girls as fair game when they abused them.”<sup>223</sup>

Hopkins was questioned by the Metropolitan Police Service in August 2015.<sup>224</sup>

- 3.50 The theme park Legoland was forced to close its hotel over the weekend of 8-9 March 2014 after it received threats from far-right groups over a private booking by the Muslim Research and Development Foundation (MRDF).<sup>225</sup>

MRDF hired the venue during the ‘closed season’ for a family fun day. The theme park would have been closed to the public until 14 March.

After a deluge of offensive and threatening posts to the Legoland Facebook page, the theme park deleted its Facebook page. Legoland also received threatening phone calls and emails from far right sympathisers over the private booking.

The theme park cancelled the event over security fears for staff and visitors. In a statement, Legoland said: “Sadly it is our belief that deliberate misinformation fuelled by a small group with a clear agenda was designed expressly to achieve this outcome.”

“We are appalled at what has occurred, and at the fact that the real losers in this are the many families and children who were looking forward to an enjoyable day out at LEGOLAND.”

Thames Valley police said it was investigating threats made by several far-right groups.<sup>226</sup>

An imam who was scheduled to attend the cancelled event blamed “extreme Islamophobia” for Legoland’s decision.<sup>227</sup>

The booking invited another, different adverse reaction in the form of a column by Daily Mail columnist Richard Littlejohn titled, ‘Jolly jihadi boys’ outing to Legoland’.

An open letter to the editor of the Daily Mail, Paul Dacre, and signed by 25 British Muslim organisations criticised the column for “deploy[ing] hateful Muslim stereotypes” and “us[ing] slurs commonly found on racist and far-right websites.”<sup>228</sup>

221. 5PillarsUK, 31 August 2014.

222. *The Independent*, 22 April 2015

223. *BBC News*, 30 March 2015. [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-32120797>]

224. *The Independent*, 4 August 2015

225. *The Independent*, 5 March 2014

226. *BBC News*, 26 February 2014. [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-26351500>]

227. *BBC News*, 17 March 2014

228. *The Guardian*, 21 February 2014.

- 3.51 A Christian street preacher was tried for public sermons delivered on a high street in Somerset which were reported as being homophobic and racist.

Michael Overd, 50, was reported to police after a passerby took offence at his “disparaging” remarks about the Prophet Muhammad.<sup>229</sup> Overd made the remarks over a loudspeaker in Taunton, Somerset in June and July 2014 and was reported for homophobic and racially aggravated speeches.

He stood trial in March 2015 and was found guilty of one charge of using threatening and abusive words for making homophobic comments but was cleared of a second charge of causing racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress for his disparaging remarks about the Prophet Muhammad.

Overd was fined £200 and ordered to pay compensation and costs totalling £1,200 at Bristol Crown Court. After being told he would have to pay £250 to his victim, Mr Overd initially refused but was threatened with a 45-day prison sentence if he did not and agreed to pay.<sup>230</sup>

- 3.52 An ice cream vendor who admitted behaving in a hostile and aggressive manner towards an Egyptian shopkeeper was sentenced in February 2014.

Raymond Gibson abused his victim during the all-Ireland fleadh in Londonderry on 13 August 2013 telling him “go back where you belong, get out of this country”.

Gibson was sentenced to a four month jail sentence, suspended for two years, at Derry’s Magistrate’s Court on 26 February 2014. He was spared a custodial sentence because of his guilty plea and lack of previous offending,

District Judge Barney McElholm described Gibson’s comments as “vile, nasty and racist.”

“That sort of comment belongs to the 1970s and the courts will not tolerate in this day and age any form of racism,” he said.<sup>231</sup>

- 3.53 A couple who made the lives of their Muslim neighbours “living hell” were convicted of racially aggravated harassment, religiously aggravated harassment and causing religiously aggravated harm or distress in September 2014.

Wendy Perrin, 63, and Paul Moore, 64, left Muslim couple Farheen Abdullah and Sakib Ahmed afraid to use their back garden after taunting them with racist abuse over the garden fence.

After Moore called Ahmed “Muslim scumbag” on 20 July 2014, Ahmed made a complaint to the local council.

Moore and Perrin are said to have repeatedly uttered “f\*\*king shut it” when they heard their neighbours speaking in Bengali. They also shouted “we don’t want to smell your f\*\*king P\*\*\* cooking” over the fence.

Perrin was convicted of racially aggravated harassment and Moore of religiously aggravated harassment and causing religiously aggravated harm or distress at Snaresbrook Crown Court in September 2014.<sup>232</sup>

No further information in relation to sentencing is available.

- 3.54 A 52 year old carer from Wigan expressed fears about his family’s safety after raising a complaint about a campaign of racist abuse.

Zuber Tantwala, who cares for his elderly mother, said his home was often pelted with eggs by a gang of youths who regularly exposed him to racist abuse. Tantwala also claimed that ‘missiles’ were thrown at his head when he left his home.

Tantwala expressed concerns about the impact of the abuse on the health of his elderly mother who had been admitted to hospital following a bout of racist abuse on one occasion.

229. *Somerset County Gazette*, 26 June 2014

230. *BBC News*, 23 March 2015

231. *UTV News*, 26 February 2014. [available at: <http://www.u.tv/News/Ice-cream-man-admits-racial-abuse/456396ae-715c-4bf6-986b-53de56aec9bf>]

232. *Barking and Dagenham Post*, 1 September 2014

Greater Manchester Police said the incidents were part of a neighbourhood investigation and urged anyone who could help identify the perpetrators to come forward with information.<sup>233</sup>

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

- 3.55 A 34 year old Pakistani man was taunted with racist abuse by a group of four males and two females as he walked to the shops near his home in the Wester Hailes area of Edinburgh on 10 May 2014.

Police appealed for help in identifying the gang. Inspector Stevie Dolan said: "This was a very distressing incident for the man, who said it left him fearing for the safety of his family. People should be allowed to nip to their local shop without being abused and intimidated by strangers and we are working hard to identify those responsible."<sup>234</sup>

- 3.56 A man describing himself as "a rising star of the right-wing community" admitted being behind an internet hoax about a pub banning military personnel from entering the premises.<sup>235</sup>

Joshua Bonehill-Paine, 21, wrote an article on his website the "Daily Bale" that "The Globe" in Leicester had banned British armed forces from entering the pub to avoid offending the immigrant population. The pub had to close temporarily after the hoax spread through social media. The false claim led to 1,000 people threatening to firebomb the premises, and kill or assault staff members.

Mr Bonehill-Paine admitted one charge of malicious communication at Yeovil Magistrates' Court on Thursday 13 March 2014.

He was also responsible for other false claims, including one about a 6 year old girl being kidnapped by an Asian grooming gang, but was not prosecuted for them. A hoax poster created by Mr Bonehill-Paine was shared thousands of times on Facebook and Twitter, with many people believing the claim to be true.

Another article that he posted on his website in September 2014 falsely claimed an Asian youth had punched a 2 month old baby twice in the face, then threw the infant against a brick wall in Middlesbrough. It was accompanied by a graphic photo of an injured baby.

Mr Bonehill-Paine was given a community sentence of 180 hours of unpaid work at Yeovil Magistrates' Court on 4 April 2014 and will be supervised by the probation service for two years.<sup>236</sup>

- 3.57 A UKIP candidate was embroiled in a race row in April 2014 after he asked his Facebook friends how Mohammad Farah, Team GB Olympic champion, had won a gold medal for Great Britain when he was an 'African'.<sup>237</sup>

David Wycherey, who was standing as a UKIP candidate for the Rushall-Shelfield ward in Walsall, wrote: "can somebody explain please...Mo Farah, an African from Somalia, who trains in America, has won a gold medal for Britain !" [sic].

He also joked about "starving Africans" while complaining about his water bill.

A UKIP spokesman said that the party would investigate the posts, adding: 'Ukip is a non-racist, non-sectarian party and all candidates and members are expected to uphold these values.

'Where evidence is produced about individuals, it will be considered at the earliest opportunity by the national executive committee as part of an established disciplinary procedure.'

- 3.58 UKIP suspended a man who represented them in a European election TV broadcast, after he condemned Ed Miliband as "not a real Brit", suggested Africans should "kill themselves off" and said Islam was "an evil organisation respecting a prophet who was a pedo" in a series of tweets over a number of months.<sup>238</sup>

Andre Lampitt claimed on Twitter that Islam was not a religion, calling it an "evil organisation

233. *Wigan Evening Post*, 25 November 2015

234. *Heart.co.uk*, 13 May 2014. available at: <http://www.heart.co.uk/scotland/news/local/glasgow-racist-attack-on-asian-boy/>

235. *BBC News*, 15 March 2014 [available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-26375545>]

236. *BBC News*, 25 April 2014 [available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-27161419>]

237. *The Guardian*, 29 April 2014

238. *Daily Mail*, 24 April 2014



respecting a Prophet who was a pedo.” He added: “All Muslims need to leave Europe... or denounce their pathetic satanic religion.”

UKIP said they were shocked by his “repellent” views. Lampitt was standing as a UKIP candidate in Merton, South London. His membership of the party was suspended immediately pending a full disciplinary process. Mr Lampitt’s Twitter account has since been shut down.

- 3.59 Two UKIP members faced expulsion from the party after they were found to have links with far-right groups.<sup>239</sup>

Kevin O’Doherty, who was standing as a UKIP candidate in the Central St Leonards ward in the Hastings Borough Council elections on May 22, was found to have written “there is no such thing as a benign Muslim, only a latent adherent of Koranic dogma” on Facebook.

The comment, written on 21 April 2014, was posted on a Facebook article that he shared about a school at the centre of the Trojan Horse scandal in Birmingham.

A UKIP party spokesman said an internal investigation had found two unnamed party members were found to have links to “organisations incompatible with party membership”. The first individual was found to have been a member of the BNP from 2005 to 2010, the second was a donor to the EDL.

UKIP said it would not reveal the identities of those involved.

- 3.60 A UKIP councillor and candidate for the European Parliament elections in 2014 denied that she wanted to ban Islam after she was accused of sharing a message on Twitter saying that the religion “has no place” in Britain.<sup>240</sup>

Dr Julia Reid shared a message on Twitter written by David Jones, a UKIP supporter that said “Islam has no place in the UK [sic] needs banning”.

After she shared the message on 14 April 2014, she deleted her Twitter account and said she did not recall sharing the tweet about Islam, while disputing whether the screenshot was accurate. She said: “As far as I am aware I did not retweet the David Jones tweet - it is not the sort of thing I would retweet - and even so a retweet is not an endorsement. I have never called for Islam to be banned in the UK and would not wish for Islam to be banned in the UK or anywhere else.”

A UKIP spokesman said that the party had nothing to add to Reid’s response. Ms Reid’s comments follow on from a tweet in 12 April 2013 when she warned her followers on Twitter that the acceptance of sharia courts in Britain could see the “majority of Muslim women” forced to abide by them.

- 3.61 A senior Birmingham councillor said that a Muslim politician may have received preferential treatment because she wore a headscarf.<sup>241</sup>

Conservative councillor, James Hutchings, made the claim about Labour Councillor Mariam Khan during a watchdog committee meeting between politicians who had gathered to discuss the ‘Trojan Horse’ scandal.

He was unhappy that she was the only person to have been named in minutes put before a city council committee and said: “The only person mentioned by name is you. I don’t know why you were so privileged, perhaps it is because you are the only person wearing a headscarf.”

Ms Khan replied: “I assure you it is probably nothing to do with how I dress or whether or not I wear a headscarf.”

Other members of the committee immediately declared their shock at the statement with children’s services head and Labour councillor Brigid Jones asking Mr Hutchings: “Did you seriously suggest a woman got preferential treatment because of the way she dressed? I want to place on record my astonishment and absolute disgust.”

239. *The Argus*, 30 April 2014

240. *Huffington Post*, 06 May 2014

241. *Birmingham Mail*, 11 September 2014

Mr Hutchings later apologised in the meeting and claimed that no criticism or prejudice was intended.

- 3.62 A charity that represents Wikipedia in the UK condemned edits made from government computers after an anti-Muslim comment was left on the website.<sup>242</sup>

The BBC discovered in April 2014 that the phrase “all Muslims are terrorists” was added to the online encyclopaedia’s page about ‘veils’.

In an email, the Cabinet Office said: “The amendments made to Wikipedia are sickening. The behaviour is in complete contravention of the Civil Service Code. It is entirely unacceptable.”

It added: “The Civil Service Code applies at all times, and we take breaches very seriously. We have already announced an investigation to examine offensive edits to Wikipedia, and will look at other concerns raised.”

The BBC found more than a hundred examples of inappropriate editing, vandalism and deletion were made by computers accessing Wikipedia through two IP addresses known to be used by government machines.

A change that was made to the entry for “veil” in October 2006 read: “It should be noted that the word Veil, when the letters rearranged [sic], spells evil. Since the Veil is mostly worn by Muslims, and all Muslims are terrorists (with the argument for this being that all terrorists have been Muslim), this fact should be dually [sic] noted by all.”

The comment was removed by a Wikipedia volunteer six minutes later.

The two IP addresses identified in connection with the entries made to Wikipedia were found to be connected to the Government Secure Intranet (GSI).

The Cabinet Office said it would be almost impossible to track down who was responsible for the offensive remarks but said they would exhaust every option to identify the culprits.

- 3.63 Four young Muslim women were verbally abused by a group of men as they prepared for prayers at a mosque in Plumstead on 30 August 2014.

The women, who were volunteering at the mosque, noticed a group of four men drinking beer and observing them in the morning, around 10.30am. Half an hour later, the four men approached the mosque and two of them verbally abused the four women.

The incident was reported to Greenwich police. A CCTV image of one of the men was released by Greenwich police in November 2014.

DC Philip Corbett from the Greenwich Community Safety Unit said: “This individual is wanted by Greenwich police for questioning and I want to be clear in putting out this appeal, that irrespective of the offence and the passage of time since the reported incident, we have not forgotten about them.”<sup>243</sup>

No further information is available in connection with this incident.

- 3.64 A protester was convicted of shouting racist abuse from the top of a bus after leaving a demonstration against a planned new mosque in Astley Bridge, Bolton.

Shaun Jones, 34, had been at a demonstration led by the North West Infidels at the site of the proposed mosque on 2 August 2014.

After the protest, Jones was seen racially abusing a group of Asian men after poking his head through the roof of the bus and gesticulating at the crowd.

Mr Jones pleaded guilty to the charge at Bolton Magistrates Court. He was conditionally discharged for three years and ordered to pay £415 costs in February 2015.

242. *BBC News*, 30 April 2014 [available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-27203371>]

243. *This is Local London*, 13 November 2014.

The period of his conditional discharge rose from two to three years because the crime was racially aggravated.<sup>244</sup>

- 3.65 Avon and Somerset police investigated social media posts appearing on the Facebook page of the local newspaper, Bridgwater Mercury, after it ran an article about a local mosque securing planning permission.

A spokesperson from Avon and Somerset police confirmed that police were looking into charges against four men, who were traced through their Facebook accounts, in relation to racist posts made on 24 September 2014.

The spokesperson said: "As a result of enquiries, four suspects have been identified in relation to this incident. We are now in the process of seeking charging advice from the Crown Prosecution Service with regard to this matter. We have a zero tolerance approach to any incident of racial hatred, and we continue to support the mosque and the wider community."

No further information is available in connection with this incident.<sup>245</sup>

- 3.66 A racist man who abused a bus driver and security guard was sentenced for the offences in May 2014.

Lewis Nigel Foulds, 21, was on a bus driven by a Sikh driver in Leicester in March 2014. There were two female passengers on the bus, neither of whom were Muslim. Foulds told the women: "I bet the driver eats pork," before chanting racist comments claiming Muslim people were paedophiles and announcing: "I'm a racist and a fascist and proud of it."

Foulds was ordered off the bus by the driver.

In a second incident occurring weeks later, on April 30, Foulds abused an Asian security guard outside a Sainsbury's store in Narborough Road, Leicester.

Foulds pleaded guilty to two offences of racially-aggravated threatening behaviour and theft of £2.14 from the bus. The court heard he had three convictions for racially-aggravated threatening behaviour.

Foulds was sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment at Leicester Crown Court in May 2014.<sup>246</sup>

- 3.67 A man was charged with sending a malicious communication after he posted a message on a website asking about a mosque in Trowbridge, Wiltshire stating "Find a mosque...then burn it to the ground." [sic]

David Lord, 27, from Bradford, West Yorkshire, was arrested and charged by West Yorkshire Police after officers in Wiltshire were alerted to the message. He appeared at Bradford Magistrates' Court on 2 June 2014.

Wiltshire police said "We had several complaints from the public regarding comments made on the original post and a 27-year-old man has now been charged with an offence of malicious communication. There were other posts that are still being investigated."

Police also confirmed they had been in contact with Trowbridge Mosque in Wiltshire and members of the Muslim community to reassure them.

No further information is available in connection with this incident.<sup>247</sup>

- 3.68 A concerned mother spoke out against biased media coverage of racist graffiti at her local school after a series of news reports claiming white pupils were being targeted by racist slurs appeared in newspapers.

Racist graffiti was daubed on the entrance path to the Prince of Wales Primary School in Enfield but media coverage focused entirely on just one of the racist messages: "whites not welcome."

The mother said the biased coverage by the Daily Mail, Daily Express and Evening Standard were creating "misconceptions and division."

244. *The Bolton News*, 20 February 2015

245. *Bridgwater Mercury*, 11 November 2014

246. *Leicester Mercury*, 27 May 2014

247. *This is Wiltshire*, 21 May 2014

Jasmin Nathan, had sent several images of the graffiti to a number publications, including the Huffington Post UK and was “very disappointed and angry” that only one image had been widely circulated.

The racist graffiti that was not published by the media included: “Enfield Council loves an immigrant”, “freeloader EU scum” and “Lutfer Rahman, corrupt, Islam, scum”.

Ms Nathan said: “I feel like these reporters have made a mockery of a very serious issue and turned it into nothing more than propaganda.”

The graffiti that did receive widespread coverage, “whites not welcome,” was misconstrued with the graffiti representing objection to supposed discrimination against white people rather than an anti-white threat. The coverage in the right-wing press, however, was seized on by far right groups with the British National Party posting a comment on the graffiti on its website and stating: “When children as young as 4 are forced to walk past this sign as they enter their school, you know something has to change...BIG TIME!!”.<sup>248</sup>

- 3.69 A man who called for “Muzzer blood” to be spilt over plans to rebuild a mosque in Farnworth, Bolton was reported to the police.

Frank Whittle wrote the comment in response to a post by Carl Bretherton on a Facebook page called “No, to the planned Mosque in Farnworth.” Bretherton wrote “Pigs blood the site, won’t build then”, to which Whittle responded “Muzzer blood would be better.. as for another one. Do the plans fit in with the area.. Do they f\*\*\*... its Farnworth not f\*\*\*\*\* Mecca...”.

Greater Manchester Police were notified of the post. No further information is available in connection with this incident.<sup>249</sup>

<sup>248</sup> *Evening Standard*, 4 June, 2014; *Daily Mail*, 5 June 2014; *Daily Express*, 5 June 2014; and *Huffington Post*, 6 June 2014.

<sup>249</sup> *Islamophobia Watch*, 14 May 2014.

[available at: <http://www.islamophobiawatch.co.uk/call-for-muzzer-blood-to-be-spilled-over-plan-to-rebuild-farnworth-mosque/>]

# Anti-Muslim Public Discourse

This section details events occurring in the UK in 2014 and their impact on public and media discourse about Islam and British Muslims.

Hate crime and intolerance towards Muslims occurs in an environment made congenial to the 'othering' of Muslims; the 'essentialisation' of their religion and religious practices, and the denigration of their religious beliefs. The racialisation of criminal offences and the essentialising of Islam as a contributing variable has been present in public debates about child sex grooming and offenders of Pakistani ethnic background throughout the year.

The so called 'Trojan horse' scandal has impacted on younger Muslims with an observed growth in racist and Islamophobic bullying in schools and focused attention on an assumed 'Islamisation' of the schooling curriculum. A wider impact on Muslims in public life is observed in the hesitance evinced by some in assuming the position of school governor in the aftermath of the saga. The facts about mismanagement and oversight procedures or governance failures in local schools have been largely obscured behind hyperbole about 'Jihadist plots' to takeover schools.

As in the previous year, elections in 2014 for the European Parliament, by elections to the national parliament and local council elections have contributed to an upsurge in anti-Muslim election material circulating online and in party political literature. The emergence of far right groups in the contest for EP seats, given the use of a proportional representation electoral system, has further added to such output as has a resurgent anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Islamic practices ranging from veiling to religious slaughter and inheritance laws have also surfaced during the year with, at times, apocalyptic commentary about the effects of accommodating minority religious practices.

Finally, events occurring abroad have featured heavily on the news agenda in 2014, part of the persistent securitisation narratives about Islam and Muslims in the UK. The murder of British aid worker, Alan Henning, by the terrorist group IS (so called 'Islamic' State) and the passage of new counter-terrorism legislation has reinforced the securitisation narrative with yet more trenchant articulations about enforcing 'British values' amid perceived threats from 'homegrown' extremists and those returning from conflict zones abroad. We have captured some of this in the newspaper headlines published during the course of the year. A qualitative analysis of this follows in the subsections below.

The impact of anti-Muslim prejudice seeping into the public discourse was commendably noted by a columnist for The Times, Matthew Parris, who raised the issue of the "ferocity" of anti-Muslim bias in everyday speech pointing to comments posted to online articles on the Times Online website.

"Whichever minority you chose you would think such remarks completely unacceptable. They would shock you. Applied to Muslims, though, they did not shock me. They dismayed me but I found the sentiments almost routine."

The normalisation of anti-Muslim prejudice in public and media discourse remains a serious challenge to the hard edge of tackling anti-Muslim hate crime and hate speech.<sup>250</sup>

## **Security, law and counter-terrorism**

The continuation of policy proposals first noted in the Prime Minister's Extremism Taskforce report of December 2013<sup>251</sup> were handed renewed significance with the murders of US journalists Steven Sotloff and James Foley and British aid worker, Alan Henning, by a man purported to be a British citizen; 'Jihadi John'.

The murders of westerners and a British citizen by someone thought to have fled the UK to join the ranks of the so called 'Islamic' state (IS) and widespread coverage of the terrorist group's heinous assaults on innocents in Syria and Iraq has fed a regular diet of commentary on Muslim 'fifth columnists'; Muslims' imperviousness to abiding by and upholding 'British values' and pronounced fears of 'homegrown extremism'.

In November 2014, the Prime Minister in an address to the Australian parliament spoke of legislation to

250. Matthew Parris, 'Don't lump all Muslims in the extremist camp', *The Times*, 23 August 2014

251. *Tackling extremism in the UK: Report from the Prime Minister's Task Force on Tackling Radicalisation and Extremism*. Cabinet Office, 2013.

be introduced on seizing passports of those suspected of travelling to conflict zones abroad and ‘temporary exclusion orders’ to keep out those suspected of returning from engaging in terrorism abroad.

In March 2014, the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, wrote in his regular column for a national daily, that Muslim parents were teaching their children “crazy stuff”. He argued that child protection agencies should treat such conduct as “child abuse” and move to take Muslim children subjected to this “abuse” into care.<sup>252</sup>

Mayor Johnson progressed in August 2014 to propose further encroachment on civil liberties stating that to deal with those suspected of travelling on suspicion of engaging in acts of terrorism, “The law needs a swift and minor change so that there is a “rebuttable presumption” that all those visiting war areas without notifying the authorities have done so for a terrorist purpose.”<sup>253</sup>

The domestic impact of these external events has been a renewed focus on the loyalty of British Muslims to the British state and their adherence to ‘British values’. The conflation of international incidents with domestic affairs has been commonplace with acts of terrorism abroad linked to multiculturalism at home and “pussyfooting around such issues as gender segregation, face veils, rigged elections and school curriculums”.<sup>254</sup>

British Muslims continue to find every facet of their lives observed through security prisms which see in the acts of terrorism committed by the few, majority culpability. The observance of religious dress and conservative religious practices are interlaced with false allegations about ‘Islamising’ school curricula and resisting social and political integration to portray Muslims as ‘deviant’.



The available evidence on Muslim identification with British identity would suggest that arguments advocating a “robust” defence of liberal values are misplaced. As are assumptions that Muslim communities are particularly or uniquely vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism.

In a debate in the House of Lords upon the publication of a report by the Intelligence and Security Committee on the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby, Lord Pearson of Rannoch, former leader of the UK Independence Party, urged Muslims to “address the violence in the Koran—and, indeed, in the life and the example of Muhammad”.<sup>255</sup>

Lord Pearson went on to suggest that given the 22 verses of the Qur’an quoted by Michael Adebawale and Michael Adebolajo after their brutal attack on Fusilier Lee Rigby, “[Was] the Prime Minister accurate or helpful when he describes it [the murder] as a betrayal of Islam?”<sup>256</sup>

252. *Daily Telegraph*, 2 March 2014

253. *Daily Telegraph*, 24 August 2014

254. *The Guardian*, 25 August 2014

255. Hansard (HL), 25 November 2014, volume 757, Column 789

256. *ibid*

The disproportionate focus of counter extremism legislation on ‘Islamist’ extremism has been raised in previous reports as have problems emanating from statements by politicians which legitimise and reinforce essentialist narratives about Islam and Muslims subsequently employed by the far right.

The neglect of far right extremism in counter-extremism and radicalisation programmes was highlighted by a Home Office Advisor who argued that an escalation in anti-Muslim prejudice by the far right as a result of IS atrocities and the sex grooming scandals was being overlooked in Government-led initiatives on countering extremism.<sup>257</sup>

The inclusion of incidents in this report demonstrating the severe threat posed by far right extremism, whether in the form of low level violence and abuse or major incidents of assault and terrorism, suggest work on countering far right extremism in counter-terrorism and radicalisation programmes is indeed under-developed. And while security threats continue to shape the UK’s policy agenda, Government rhetoric, media output and the tenor of a tendentious political debate still has far reaching consequences for British Muslims.

### **‘Trojan horse’**

Singular among developments in anti-Muslim public discourse in 2014 was the discovery of a letter purporting to outline a ‘plot’ by ‘Islamist extremists’ to ‘takeover’ schools in Birmingham in order to impose a ‘hardline’ Islamic curriculum.

In November 2013 Birmingham City Council received an anonymous letter detailing the existence of a plot to impose a ‘hardline Muslim ethos’ in several Birmingham schools which had resulted in the alleged ousting of four headteachers.

A copy of the letter was sent to the Department for Education in December 2013 and to the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU). A copy of the letter was also sent to the British Humanist Association which probed the Department for Education on the allegations raised in the letter about an alleged ‘plot’.

In March 2014, the existence of the letter and an investigation by Birmingham City Council into the alleged ‘plot’ became public knowledge with media reporting on the existence of a ‘Jihadist plot to takeover city’s schools’. Through March and April 2014, Ofsted conducted a number of ‘spot inspections’ of schools implicated in the so called ‘plot’.

In April 2014, Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, appointed the former head of counter-terrorism at the Metropolitan Police Service, Peter Clarke, as Education Commissioner and tasked him with conducting a separate investigation into the alleged ‘plot’.

A number of reports were published throughout 2014 by Birmingham City Council, the Department for Education, the parliamentary select committee on Education and the Education Funding Agency.

Speculation on the existence of a plot, despite the inability to verify the provenance of the letter or ascertain its authorship, was rife with public debate about Muslim faith schools dragged into the wider national conversation about school governance, council oversight and the Conservative Party’s flagship policy on free schools.

Educationalists warned of the impact on the integrity of public bodies tasked with conducting school inspections and about the prejudicial public debate on Muslim schools in an open letter in *The Guardian* stating:

“Numerous sensationalised leaks have reinforced the perception of a pre-set agenda. It is beyond belief that schools which were judged less than a year ago to be “outstanding” are now widely reported as “inadequate”, despite having the same curriculum, the same students, the same leadership team and the same governing body. In at least one instance, these conflicting judgments were made by the same lead inspector. This has damaged not only the reputation of the schools but the integrity of the inspections process.”<sup>258</sup>

In an interview with *The Muslim News*, the Education Secretary, Nicky Morgan affirmed that there was “no evidence of radicalisation or terrorism or violent extremism” in the schools inspected as part of the investigations led by the Department for Education.<sup>259</sup>

257. *BBC News*, 18 September 2014. [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-29204170>]

258. *The Guardian*, 3 June 2014

259. *The Muslim News*, 31 October 2014

In a later report published by the Education select committee, the idea of a ‘plot’ was dismissed with the report concluding:

“We note once again that no evidence of extremism or radicalisation, apart from a single isolated incident, was found and that there is no evidence of a sustained plot nor of a similar situation pertaining elsewhere in the country.”<sup>260</sup>

The wider impact of the media coverage, commentary and political interventions reinforcing teaching of ‘Fundamental British Values’ in schools has been tremendous.

Exemplary of this is the prominent media coverage given to a ‘plot’ that never was and the grandstanding by politicians on the upholding of ‘liberal’ values, or ‘fundamental British values’ in the nation’s schools on the pretext that subversive behaviours had been identified.

The ‘Trojan Horse plot’ has since been exploited to defend further counter-extremism policies with the Home Secretary and Prime Minister alluding to it in recent speeches heralding the introduction of new counter-extremism legislation.

The advice and counsel of educationalists of the impact on pupil welfare of media and political discourse has been largely neglected. In a report published by the NSPCC and Childline in January 2014, presenting results from counselling offered to young people in 2012/2013, the charity noted a 69% increase in racist bullying in schools noting “a common theme was for young people to be called a “terrorist” or a “bomber.””<sup>261</sup>

A study into the Birmingham schools affair titled, Operation Trojan Horse: Islamophobia or Extremism?,<sup>262</sup> by Dr Imran Awan, a criminologist at Birmingham University, noted that 90 per cent of Birmingham’s Muslims feel it has caused serious harm to community cohesion – and that many children have been left feeling “targeted and stigmatised.”<sup>263</sup>

Awan said, “Previous studies have shown that British Muslims felt very comfortable with their identity; they felt well-integrated and proud to be British citizens.

“But much of this has been undone by what they feel has been relentless, unfair criticism.”<sup>264</sup>

Childline’s 2013/2014 annual review does not detail the incidence of racist bullying experienced by young people compared to the previous year although the report does note that bullying and online bullying remains one of the top ten reasons (number 5) why young people contact the helpline.<sup>265</sup>

While Muslim adults have often been framed in the media discourse as ‘fifth columnists’, from the Trojan horse saga and its aftermath, it would seem the focus has shifted to a perceived, ‘emergent’ fifth column.



260. Education select committee - Seventh Report 'Extremism in schools: the Trojan Horse affair'. 11 March 2015

261. NSPCC. (2014). *Can I tell you something? Childline review 2012/2013*. p.41

262. Awan, Imran. (2014) 'Operation 'Trojan Horse': Islamophobia or Extremism?' *Political Insight* vol. 5 issue 2. pp 38-39.

263. *Birmingham Mail*, 27 July 2014

264. *ibid*

265. NSPCC. (2014) *Under Pressure: Childline Annual Review April 2013 - March 2014*. p.13



### **Muslim grooming gangs'**

A secondary area which has seen significant media coverage of a tendentious type has been reporting on court cases and commissioned reports about the failures of statutory bodies and child protection agencies in dealing with child sex grooming and exploitation offences.

Criminal trials involving child sex grooming in cities around the UK have regularly featured in tabloid newspapers with accusations of a "culture of silence" inhibiting police investigations into "Muslim grooming gangs".<sup>266</sup>

A racialized narrative once confined to the British National Party, has become mainstream in recent years with a high volume of news stories "racialising" child sex offence crimes and foregrounding the religious and ethnic identity of Asian offenders.

In 2014, the publication by Professor Alexis Jay, of a report into failures concerning child sex grooming offences in Rotherham, gave new impetus to "racialised" narratives with news reports focusing on the "Pakistani heritage" of some of the men involved and a misplaced sensitivity for the "culture of Muslims" by officials which made such crimes possible.<sup>267</sup>

There has been evidence of some attempt to engage with the distorted coverage which has focused on ethnicity, race and religion with journalists contributing to a re-shaping of the news agenda away from "racialised" narratives to a consideration with criminal behaviour and public accountability.<sup>268</sup>

The impact of negative media discourse about the sex grooming scandals can be gauged by the number of far right protests that have occurred in 2014 in cities identified in criminal cases; Rochdale, Oldham, Oxford, Rotherham all of which have seen far right protests in the last year.

The table below shows the frequency of protests organised in 2014 by three far right groups: English Defence League, Britain First and the National Front.

The total number of protests, 58, we have logged as occurring in 2014, average to around one far right protest a week. One of the peaks in the 12 month timeline coincides with the month of publication of the Jay report; August 2014, and later the same year, in November.

Table 1



Muslims in Rotherham have spoken of the upsurge in verbal abuse and hate crime directed at Muslim residents in the city since the publication of the Jay report. Local MP, Sarah Champion, revealed that young Asian girls in the city were afraid to venture into the city centre and that some had been threatened with rape as a means of "even[ing] things up".<sup>269</sup>

After the conviction of nine men from Rochdale on sex offences in 2012, the Muslim Council of Britain

266. *Daily Mail*, 5 January 2011 and *Daily Express*, 6 January 2011.

267. *The Times*, 27 August 2014 and Allison Pearson, 'Rotherham: In the face of such evil, who is the racist now?' *Daily Telegraph*, 27 August 2014.

268. Paul Vallely, 'Rotherham abuse report: protection is what matters, not blame', *The Guardian*, 26 August 2014; Randeep Ramesh, 'Rotherham: a putrid scandal perpetuated by a broken system', *The Guardian*, 26 August.

269. *BBC News*, 25 November 2014. [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-30194809>]

reported “an upsurge in hate mail and abusive phone calls since the trial ended”.

In 2014, the Sheffield Faith Leaders Forum issued a statement condemning those who exploited Professor Jay’s report to incite anti-Muslim hatred.

The statement, signed by the Bishop of Sheffield, Revd. Steven Croft, stated:

“The Sheffield Faith Leaders express dismay that there are those who seek to use Professor Jay’s report as a political tool as part of a wider political agenda to demonise and misrepresent one faith community and vilify that faith.

“We stand with the communities of Rotherham who are being affected by those who are using Professor Jay’s report to incite hatred, racism and intolerance on a town that is still suffering from shock at the depth of such abuse.”

In an interview with the BBC, a Home Officer Advisor on Extremism argued that the Rotherham sex grooming cases was among factors “fuelling the far right”.<sup>270</sup>

### **Accommodating minority religions**

Religious practice and rituals have featured in public debate about Islam and British Muslims with issues such as face veils, halal meat, Islamic wills and, of course, Muslim faith schools, all making headlines and informing political debate over the course of the year.

- Veiling

In February 2014, a Private Members’ Bill sponsored by Phillip Hollobone MP had its second reading in the House of Commons. The Bill, ‘Face Coverings (Prohibition)’, seeks to criminalise the wearing of face veils in the UK. The Bill’s proposals have been dismissed by senior politicians as interfering with the rights of women to choose what they wear.

The Bill, though ineffective, has not been the sole reason for the re-emergence of impassioned debate about veiling in the public square.

The ruling passed by the European Court of Human Rights in July 2014 upholding France’s ban on face veils in public places, *S.A.S. v. France*, has spurred advocates to reiterate their claims for the UK to follow suit.

Allison Pearson, in her column in the Daily Telegraph argued that many find “the sight of a woman wandering around in a bin bag” offensive stating that a ban would “send out a strong message that garments that have nothing to do with religion, and everything to do with grotesque misogyny and the treatment of females as second-class citizens, have no place in a modern democracy. If the state bans such clothing then the hope is that young women will gradually be empowered to hold out against it.”

She argued “The burka is rather a cause of racism, not a symptom”.<sup>271</sup>

Repeating the ‘horror genre’ which academics have identified in the media’s portrayal of Islam and Muslims<sup>272</sup>, Pearson conjures up the dark and sinister, writing of women in veils, “One day, the burkas, like a flock of crows, will come home to roost. Ban it. Now.”<sup>273</sup>

In July 2014, a petition was launched to ban the wearing of the face veil in the UK.

- Religious slaughter

As the European Commission deliberates guidance to Member States on religious slaughter and food labelling, the issue of halal meat was once again front page news in 2014 and the subject of wider public and parliamentary debate.

As early as January 2014, a parliamentary debate was tabled in the House of Lords about the Government’s assessment “of the ethical, legal and religious factors that influence the way in which some animals are slaughtered in the United Kingdom.”<sup>274</sup>

270. *BBC News*, 18 September 2014. [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-29204170>]

271. Allison Pearson, ‘Banning the burka is not racist - it’s a kindness’, *Daily Telegraph*, 2 July 2014

272. Baker, P., C. Gabrielatos and T. McEnery. (2013). *Discourse Analysis and Media Attitudes: The representation of Islam in the British Press*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

273. *ibid*

274. Hansard (HL) 16 January 2014, Volume 751, Column GC194

The ensuing debate in the upper chamber heard arguments in support of the practice of stunning prior to religious slaughter with Lord Trees, sponsor of the debate, asking “Is it not time to adopt stunning to preclude the possibility of unnecessary suffering – as some Muslim food authorities have allowed?”<sup>275</sup>

The issue of the exemption under British law permitting religious slaughter has dovetailed with a broader media fuelled debate about the “horror at halal slaughterhouses”.<sup>276</sup>

Contestation over the exemption permitted under UK law to allow Islamic and Jewish slaughter methods took a new turn in 2014 with interventions by the British Veterinarian Association’s president-elect, John Blackwell, calling for a ban on religious slaughter in the UK in an interview in March 2014.

Blackwell asserted the BVA’s campaign priorities stating:

“We are looking for a meeting of minds to review the evidence base which clearly shows that slaughtering animals without stunning compromises welfare. If that can’t happen then I would like labelling at the point of sale that gives the consumer informed choice. If that is not possible we would be looking for a ban for killing without stunning.”

What has followed is media interest in the distribution of halal food in the food supply chain with a number of alarmist articles published about the “secret of halal” and ‘investigations’ about food chains or institutions found to be using halal meat in food products. Coverage has included Pizza Express and Subway, food chains whose use of halal meat has made headline news, and the Army and university student unions, with freedom of information requests submitted to identify those places where halal is on the menu.

The, at times, incendiary coverage, has provoked a large volume of output and commentary with one journalist claiming the volume of halal slaughter in the UK, quite disproportionate to the size of the British Muslim population, means “halal has now become the default position”.<sup>277</sup>

The media coverage and political debate has paid scant attention to the actual volume of halal slaughter that intersects with concern about stunned over non-stunned slaughter. According to statistics published by the Department for Environment, Farming and Agriculture, the vast majority of religious slaughter practiced by Muslims entails pre-stunning of animals.

The practical dimension aside, the question of freedom of religion for Muslim and Jewish communities, remains vibrant despite the dominant practice of pre-stunning in halal slaughter. Muslim and Jewish leaders in the UK have worked together successfully to challenge the biased reporting on religious slaughter in the British press and the provocative claims that religious slaughter is incompatible with animal welfare concerns. Muslim and Jewish leaders have also been quick to point out the prejudiced nature of calls for better food labelling arguing that labelling should extend to all forms of slaughter, not confined to religious methods alone.<sup>278</sup>

The report by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Beef and Lamb in August 2014 paid reference to media coverage on the issue recognising that “the debate and coverage in the press to date on the topic of meat slaughtered in accordance with religious rites has been polarised and that a broader and more measured view needs to be taken.”<sup>279</sup>

The report prompted a parliamentary debate in the House of Commons in November 2014 led by the chair of the APPG, Neil Parish MP. Parish acknowledged that the APPG in the course of its investigations found “[T]hat the majority of studies have been about halal slaughter,” reinforcing perceptions of an innate bias towards Islamic slaughter methods in current literature.

This was followed by a subsequent debate in the same chamber in December 2014, again on the topic of food labelling. Once again, it was headline news.

By the end of the year, a petition supported by a number of animal welfare organisations including the BVA, to ban non-stun slaughter in the UK, was approaching the critical threshold of 100,000 signatures; the number required to prompt a Westminster Hall debate on issue.

By the end of January 2015, the petition had accumulated the requisite number of signatures and a

275. Hansard (HL) 16 January 2014, Volume 751, Column GC196

276. *Mail on Sunday*, 12 April 2014

277. Guy Adams, ‘A stealthy takeover of Britain’s supermarket shelves: Unlabelled halal meat has become the ‘default’ position’. *Daily Mail*, 8 May 2014

278. Henry Grunwald and Dr Shuja Shafi, ‘All meat should be labelled with details of its slaughter’, *Daily Telegraph*, 8 May 2014

279. All-Party Parliamentary Group on Beef and Lamb report: ‘*Meat Slaughtered in Accordance with Religious Rites*’, August 2014

parliamentary debate took place on 23 February 2015. Among speakers in the debate were MPs representing Muslim and Jewish constituents. MP Mike Freer referred to emails received from members of the public who wrote to him to say: “I don’t want my meat touched by a dirty man in a beard” and “I don’t want Muslim meat”— whatever Muslim meat is.”

Freer warned that “perhaps ignorance, racism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism lurk behind some of the respectable arguments.”<sup>280</sup>



### Elections and the far right

European, local and by elections to the national parliament all took place during 2014 and with it raising some of the same issues which arose in the previous year about campaign material and candidate behaviour.

Building on its success in the local elections in 2013, when UKIP won 25% of the popular vote, the party stormed the European Parliament elections in June 2014 taking the lion’s share of the vote, 27.5%. It beat the three main political parties: Labour (25.4%); Conservative (23.9%) and Liberal Democrat (6.8%) on a 34% turnout.

Far right parties also contested the European Parliament elections with the English Democrats, British National Party and Liberty GB all standing candidates.

As with the previous year, media scrutiny over those seeking public office has brought to light a 280. Hansard (HC) 23 February 2015, Volume 593, Column 32WH

disturbing level of anti-Muslim invective uttered by would-be politicians and party members.

Among candidates whose anti-Muslim attitudes were uncovered are these:

- UKIP candidate, **Magnus Nielsen**, who was standing in the London Borough elections for Camden council, posted this comment on his Facebook page:

“70% of mosques in the UK have been taken over by Wahabbi fundamentalists. Islam is organised crime under religious camouflage. Any Muslim who is not involved in organised crime is not a ‘true believer’, practising Islam as Muhammad commanded.”<sup>281</sup>

- A UKIP senior official placed an advert in a local paper saying women should stay at home and “cash-strapped Moslems” should have multiple wives.<sup>282</sup>

**David Challice**, an activist in Exeter, also discussed the “lunacy of multiculturalism” and described Greeks as “vile” in an advert in the Exeter Express and Echo newspaper and in his book.

- A UKIP candidate for the London Borough elections in Enfield, **William Henwood** posted tweets saying “Islam reminds me of the 3rd Reich, strength through violence against the citizens.”<sup>283</sup>

He also said Muslims “like us to fawn to them” and “young Muslim men remind me of young Afrikaners. They are taught at an early age they have the right to abuse.”

- A UKIP candidate for Basingstoke and Dean Borough council elections, **John Kearney**, wrote comments disparaging of Islam on a blog dedicated to his Catholic beliefs. He wrote:

“The real threat now comes from militant Islam who persecute the Church and martyr Christians in a way that reminds us of the early Church.”

“Today we have the rise of Islam and a contempt for human life among a large number of people of that faith. They seek world domination and are more evangelical in their cause than Christians have been in the past 40 years.”

In a blog posted in August 2013, he also wrote:

“A new word has arisen in Brainwashed Britain – ‘Islamaphobia’. This is called an unnatural fear of Islam.

“I do not know about unnatural but I would say that anyone who does not fear Islam is a fool.”<sup>284</sup>

- **Harry Perry**, UKIP candidate for Offerton ward in Stockport, posted a tweet stating “Islam is evil”.<sup>285</sup> He also wrote “God himself hates Islam” and referred to Muslims as “Devil’s kids”.<sup>286</sup>
- **Jackie Garnett**, standing for UKIP in the local council elections in Oldham posted a series of anti-Muslim comments on her Facebook page under the pen name “Aunty Jack Aguero”. She wrote: “mosques to be knocked down and Islam to be banned”. She also said “the Muslims” were turning “many of the small areas of the town into ghettos” stating “Ethnic cleansing is going on in this country and its the english (sic) that are being diluted.”<sup>287</sup>

In addition to comments, posts and statements of a derogatory nature by various candidates, the BNP distributed an inflammatory leaflet in the north London Borough of Enfield calling for ‘no more mosques’ and asking if voters were “Alarmed by the threat of Islam to your British Identity?”.

The leaflet claimed the far right party “help[s] local communities oppose applications to build mosques and threaten our British identity by converting churches and pubs into Islamic centres.”

The leaflet also warned against “organised Muslim sex gangs” and referred to halal practices as

281. *The Guardian*, 26 April 2014

282. *Sky News*, 25 April 2014

283. *The Guardian*, 26 April 2014

284. *The Guardian*, 15 May 2014

285. *BBC News*, 2 May 2014. [available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-27252514>]

286. *Daily Telegraph*, 2 May 2014

287. *Oldham Chronicle*, 2 May 2014

“ritual slaughter.”

A BNP spokesman argued they had campaigned in the Borough because London is “being turned into a foreign country” by Muslims.

“The fact is we are looking at the wholesale repression of the British and English population,” he added.

Referring to the BNP’s claim in their pamphlet that they are human rights advocates, he said: “Halal food is barbaric. It belongs somewhere 5,000 years ago.

“If people want to do that I would suggest they go and do it in another country as it is completely unnecessary.”<sup>288</sup>

In Rochester and Strood, where a by election was held in November 2014, the Royal Mail postal service refused distribution of a leaflet by the Britain First candidate, Jayda Fransen, on grounds that “Royal Mail may refuse to carry election mail if we consider its contents to be illegal, for example if it is threatening, abusive or insulting, or is intended to cause distress or anxiety.”

The Britain First leaflet showed a woman in niqab on one side with the word ‘warning’ emblazoned across the page and a ‘no to mega-mosque’ symbol in the bottom right hand corner. It carried a message from Ms Fransen on the back as follows:

“My name is Jayda Fransen and unlike the rest, I am proud to be English.

“I have campaigned hard against the huge new mega mosque that is going to be built on Rochester’s doorstep and that is why I am standing in the Rochester and Strood by-election.

“If this mega mosque is built, Medway will be flooded with more Muslim immigrants. I want Medway, especially Rochester, to remain English – unfortunately none of the other parties do...

“Vote for me and I promise you I will stop this mega mosque!”

Another disconcerting development related to elections in 2014 was an omission by the Electoral Commission in respect of ballot papers distributed in Wales.

The Electoral Commission overlooked the exploitation of the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby in Britain First’s ballot entry with the phrase “Remember Lee Rigby” appearing on voting slips for the European elections in Wales, but not England or Scotland.

The Commission admitted signing off on the slogan. Jenny Watson, chair of the Electoral Commission, apologised for the offence caused saying “The party description ‘Remember Lee Rigby’ that was registered for use at the European Elections in May by ‘Britain First’ should never have been permitted.

“We are sorry that the decision we made means that voters in Wales will now see the description on the ballot paper when they vote.”

Among positive developments observed last year was the publication of the report by the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Electoral Conduct and its recommendations concerning the upholding of equalities and incitement legislation around party political materials distributed during elections and the electoral conduct of candidates. While the Equalities and Human Rights Commission issued guidance ahead of the general election in May 2015, it would appear from the materials and conduct documented above, the opportunity to issue guidance sooner was missed as were opportunities to enforce compliance.

<sup>288</sup>. *Enfield Advertiser*, 17 January 2014.

## Positive developments

There have been a number of important positive developments in 2014 which are worthy of mention for their contribution, present or future, to an improved environment for tackling Islamophobia and anti-Muslim prejudice in the UK.

Developments in policing guidance and hate crime strategies in regions across the UK have been a significant contribution in terms of official responses to the problem. Public awareness campaigns during National Hate Crime Awareness Week have contributed to the dissemination of important information to victims of hate crime about police responses and the criminal justice system.

The launch of the Commission on Religion and Belief in Public Life, though still underway, is a much needed platform for public deliberation on the role of religion in public life and for addressing some of the issues that arise from intolerance and prejudice towards people of religious backgrounds.

Finally, our own efforts during Islamophobia Awareness Month, marked annually in November, is included here as a demonstration of one of our many contributions to tackling Islamophobia in the UK.

### **Hate Crime Strategies**

In May 2014, the Welsh Assembly published its hate crime strategy, *Tackling Hate Crimes and Incidents: A Framework for Action*, following a year long consultation process beginning in 2013. The strategy identifies three primary objectives: Prevention; Supporting victims and Improving the multi-agency response.

In December 2014, the Mayor of London's Office for Policing and Crime published a hate crime strategy for London. The strategy identifies a number of objectives for the period 2014 – 2017:

- Disseminate hate crime resources for educational institutions;
- Develop a pan-London awareness campaign leading up to Hate Crime Awareness Week in 2015;
- Develop a smartphone crime reporting app for hate crime and pilot it by 2015;
- Develop a third party telephone reporting mechanism across London to supplement existing local mechanisms;
- Work with the Ministry of Justice to develop resources within the True Vision hate crime reporting information website that are specific to London;
- Work with the Metropolitan Police Service to develop a hate crime hotspot map in London in order to facilitate the targeting of resources at communities at most risk;
- Improve the use of enhanced sentencing by judges in 'hostility-based offences' by urging the Home Secretary to introduce new sentencing guidelines for hate crimes and the recording of enhanced sentences on the Police National Computer;

It has recently been reported that the Mayor of London will unveil a London-wide third party telephone reporting system during National Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2015.<sup>289</sup>

### **Guidance on hate crime and hate speech**

The year also saw the publication of new Guidance on Hate Crime by the College of Policing in May 2014.<sup>290</sup> The Guidance replaces the Hate Crime Manual, published in 2005, and has been updated in order to help officers "at every level to respond positively and reduce under-reporting of hate crime."

The Guidance further recognises emerging challenges such as internet-based offences and improving police response to disability hate crime.

### **Online Moderation Guide**

Another report which was published in 2014 and which is intended to contribute to tackling hate speech is the Online Moderation Guide published jointly by the Society of Editors and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Guide surveys practices currently employed by teams regulating online content for publishers and major broadcasters in the UK. The Guide explores issues such as registration, moderation, reporting,

<sup>289</sup> *The Observer*, 1 August 2015

<sup>290</sup> College of Policing (2014).

*Hate crime* [Internet]. <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/hate-crime/> [Accessed 13 August 2015]

training moderators and sanctions. It notes that “Subjects found most problematical for publishers and moderators include race/immigration, court, crime and politics.”

### ***Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life***

The Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life was inaugurated in October 2013 and invited submissions to its public consultation throughout 2014.

The Commission’s terms of reference are to:

- consider the place and role of religion and belief in contemporary Britain, and the significance of emerging trends and identities;
- examine how ideas of Britishness and national identity may be inclusive of a range of religions and beliefs, and may in turn influence people’s self-understanding;
- explore how shared understandings of the common good may contribute to greater levels of mutual trust and collective action, and to a more harmonious society;
- make recommendations for public life and policy.

An oral submission contributed by MEND focused on one of the Commission’s general questions: Do the media accurately and helpfully portray issues of religion and belief, and communities and groups identified by religion or belief?

It is hoped that the breadth of the Commission’s consultation process and the expertise of its illustrious Commissioners will contribute to a deep and meaningful engagement with religion in British public life.

### ***Islamophobia Awareness Month***

Our Community Engagement and Development team undertook a vast range of public awareness raising activities, seminars and local events during Islamophobia Awareness Month in November 2014 to further three principal objectives:

- Improve victim reporting of anti-Muslim hate crime;
- Improve police response to anti-Muslim hate crime;
- Raise awareness about anti-Muslim prejudice.

Events included exhibitions in town halls, libraries, mosques and Islamic centres, council chambers and universities in different cities around the UK; events with Police and Crime Commissioners in different constabulary regions and a seminar with the City of London Police on anti-Muslim hate crime.

West Midlands Police announced that as of 1 April 2014 religious hate crime would be better recorded by the local constabulary and that the identity, or perceived identity, of the victim of religious hate crime would be recorded. West Midlands Police are one of the 10 forces from whom we have secured a commitment to record Islamophobia under a separate crime flag.

### ***Recording hate crime***

We conclude on the issue with which we opened, that is recording hate crime and improving the quality of data on hate crime by type.

Our work on the recording of Islamophobia under a separate crime flag, as currently happens with anti-Semitism in the UK, will continue in force areas where we await progress.

The possibility of the mandatory recording of anti-Muslim hate crime by police forces in England and Wales was stated in a speech delivered by the Home Secretary in March 2015.<sup>291</sup> We still await the implementation of this proposal. Data quality remains an obstacle to a full and accurate evaluation of the scale of anti-Muslim hate crime in the UK.

Concluding remarks rest on the level of commitment we have seen displayed by Government departments on tackling Islamophobia since the escalation of attacks last year, in the aftermath of the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby, and a 45% rise in recorded religious hate crime in England and Wales in 2013-2014.

We hope that the incidents documented in this report, and the concerns raised over rhetoric deployed by the media and politicians and its fuelling anti-Muslim prejudice is heeded and better efforts expended to tackle Islamophobia in the UK than we have witnessed in recent years.

<sup>291</sup> Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP, ‘*A Stronger Britain, Built on Our Values*’, delivered at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors on 23 March 2015.





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