
Guardian Muslims in Britain Series Opinion Poll Results

Having conducted an opinion poll via our mailing list and our website, we are pleased to post here the results of our findings.

Respondents Profile

50% aged 18-25
17% 26-30
25% 31-40
8% 50+

67% male
33% female

Analysis

At the outset, over three quarters of the respondents felt that the overall reporting on the series was both accurate and fair, although whilst this may have been the case, just on half of those who took part stated that they learnt nothing new from the series. One reason for this could be because of the likelihood that those respondents were Muslim themselves and that knowledge of the religion was already there but as we did not ask respondents to reveal their religious backgrounds we cannot verify this.

Whilst 58% of respondents stated that the series did not feel that the series had changed their perceptions of Muslims, an overwhelming 92% did feel that perceptions had improved for the better, a point that the series should be congratulated for.

Respondents were asked to pick out any articles that particularly stuck in their minds and if so, to state the reasons why. We found that there was very little trend with regards a 'favourite' article that emerged as being particularly worthy of note. Articles relating to Muslim women, Hamza Yusuf and British Muslim statistics were all noted as being particularly interesting, as indeed was the Karen Armstrong feature.

One article did however emerge as being unpopular with our respondents which was the article concerning Britain's most influential Muslims. This was particularly disliked because it was seen to be unrepresentative, and also because some respondents felt that the benchmark against which these Muslims were made was one based upon secular gauges of success and influence rather than Islamic standards.

A staggering 83% felt that the series was either 'good' or 'very good', and less than 1 in 8 thought that the overall series was 'poor'.

One feature that characterises Islamophobic attitudes is the perception that Muslims and Islam are monolithic and static as a body of people. However 80% of our respondents felt that the series presented Muslims as being diverse and varied.

1 in 4 respondents also felt that the series presented Islam as being neither superior nor inferior to the West; that it did not present a threat to the West and that the series attempted to understand cultural differences that existed between Muslims and the West.

Data

- 75% thought the series was 'fair'
- 75% also felt that the reporting was accurate
- The survey showed that just on half of the participants felt that they did learn something new from the series
- 58% felt that the series did not change their perceptions of Muslims
- Whilst 92% felt that their perceptions of Muslims had improved
- Reaction was split over articles which 'stuck in the memory', although the 10 most influential Muslims was largely disliked due to it being somewhat unrepresentative, and its focus being on secular rather than Islamic standards and successes
- 83% felt that the series was either 'good' or 'very good', with less than 1 in 8 saying that it was poor
- Over 80% felt that the series presented Muslims as being diverse
- Over 80% also felt that the series presented Islam as being neither superior or inferior to the West; that it did not present a threat to the West and that the series attempted to understand cultural differences that existed between Muslims and the West