

## Muslims in Canada: Security

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For the past 14 years there has been a concern that violent extremism is a threat to the west and recently Harper stated this is Canada's biggest security threat. This is reflected in Canada's current discussions around homegrown terrorism and radicalization, and changes to security laws.

### Subject Matter Experts

[Nahla Abdo](#)

Professor of Sociology  
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[Hussein Hamdani](#)

Vice Chair  
North American Spiritual Revival (NASR)

### What can be done about radicalization?

#### Discussion Overview

The majority of Muslims are not religious radicals, and yet the fear of terrorism overrides this reality. There is also a tendency in times of crisis to question what Muslim leaders and communities are doing to counter terrorism. How can Muslim communities and other Canadians deal with the potential for radicalization?

[Hussein Hamdani](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 4, 2016 at 09:27 am

I look forward to discussing these topics with Nahla and the rest of you. talk soon. Hussein

[Stephanie Dotto](#) • October 12, 2016 at 11:00 am

During the American town hall presidential debate on Sunday a Muslim woman asked the candidates about anti-Muslim prejudice, and both Clinton and Trump responded by discussing how Muslims need to police each other, which did not answer the woman's question. I do wonder if this is another example of a neoliberal institution "downloading responsibility" for larger societal issues onto specific communities and individuals. I think we need to be attuned to the way that we do or do not place this burden on other communities who have members committing acts of terrorism, and even more crucially, what we label as terrorism.

I don't think it's a coincidence that so many instances of Muslim extremist terrorism are happening in European countries where racism towards Muslim minorities is deeply entrenched, and manifests in social inequality. Again, this comes back to the state's downloading of responsibility. Perhaps what we need to do is stop asking "how can we deal with the potential for Muslim radicalization" and instead ask "how can we, together with our social and governmental institutions, deal with our society's white supremacy, Islamophobia, and inequality?" Regardless of race or religion, people who feel part of a

community, have enough to eat, and are treated well are way less likely to want to kill themselves or harm others for a cause. And regardless of race we all need to be the eyes and ears of our communities, not by spying on each other but by calling out racism, violence, and injustice wherever we see it.

- Post Awarded 20 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 12, 2016 at 12:33 pm

Thank you Stephanie for your insightful comment. The fact that Orientalism and Islamophobia are ingrained in the conscious and subconscious of the Western, especially US institutional psyche, makes it difficult if not impossible, for any official to provide a logical or sensible answer to questions on Islam. The response "Muslims need to police each other" is as racist and insulting as saying all Muslims or most Muslims are terrorists and violent.

Also, what you refer to as "the state downloading of responsibility" is, in other words, admitting to the embedded state racism, Orientalism and Othering: All being characteristics of the settler colonial state which masquerades under liberal democracy.

- Post Awarded 15 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 12, 2016 at 12:42 pm

Stephanie's post in the context of the US Presidential talks demands, we in Canada ask: How does Orientalism, Islamophobia and Racism against Arabs and Muslims manifest themselves? What role does the media play in promoting the hate discourse? And how can we Canadians fight such prejudices?

[Hussein Hamdani](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 14, 2016 at 11:09 am

Stephanie, thank you very much for your insightful comments. I will not repeat the points that Nahla made (which I agree with), but do want to pick up a point that you made near the end of commentary: that "people who feel part of a community, have enough to eat, and are treated well are way less likely to want to kill themselves or harm others for a cause". It has been my experience in working with youth, that there are 4 or so types of people that run off and join extremist organizations in the name of religion. In each of these cases, there is a role for the government to play, society to play and the community to play: 1. the Zeolot; 2. Dis-effected youth who witness injustice; 3. those with mental health issues; 4. recent converts to Islam and in Europe more than North America, we are seeing the category of 5. youth with petty criminal records/sense of no future for them. Most of my volunteer work is with the second category - young people who see injustice all around them and feel that they need to do something to "right" a "wrong". I do believe that the community must play a role (but not only the community) to help them redirect their passions and desires to far more productive means. As we move along on the discussions, I will expand and explain what I have seen regarding each of the 5 categories that I have listed. thanks.

- Post Awarded 50 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 15, 2016 at 09:34 am

Lila Abu-Lughod argues that 'Muslim women are victims of their religion, culture and patriarchal violence' has become "the new common sense" in the West, justifying the need for us (the West) to save them. Do you agree?

- Post Awarded 5 DR

[Russel Johnsen](#) • October 16, 2016 at 02:01 pm

The 'radicalization' of Muslims is very straightforward. It is caused by the USA and friends in their continued wars in the Middle East/North Africa for the most part. This really began in the 1940s when the USA/UK made friends with Saudi Arabia and began to accept Wahhabism a Sunni type culture born out a banditry. It is a very, very tough interpretation of Islam. The USA and the UK next, in 1953, created a coup in Iran and took over a democratic Iran and put in a puppet Shah to rule. This finally ended in 1979 when the Iranians kicked out the USA and the CIA. A CIA that illegally worked out of the US embassy in Tehran thus leaving the embassy bare of its protected classification - ie: it was no longer inviolate. In 1980 the USA flooded Iraq with all sorts of trainers and military advisors and the ability to create gas weapons with ingredients and expertise given to Iraq by the USA. Thousands of Iranian troops were killed by this gas in this cruel, USA induced war. I shall stop with detailing the rest: -Iraq invasion never ending by the USA -full of war crimes from Abi Ghraib, to the Schwartzkopt massacre of Iranians leaving Kuwait - no survivors allowed.

- The coup in Egypt of the Muslim Brotherhood which won the election. This would be similar to a coup in the USA of the Democrats or the Republicans should they win election there. - The Libya No Fly Zone where the UN gave permission only for a No Fly Zone under Resolution 1973...USA and friends ignored the dictates of the resolution and bombed the hell out of Libya and stole their oil and likely the gold reserves. Libyans had a lot but everything is gone because of the USA and little followers. Gadaffi was cruelly murdered and Hillary Clinton laughed at his death. Americans only worry about a few Americans killed in Bengazi. Frankly I don't care, I care about the 30,000 plus Libyans murdered in this action. - car bombings initiated by the cruelty of the USA and the beginning of suicide attacks - none apparent before the USA continuous interference in Iraq with its military and CIA - Fallugah - GHW Bush siege of 4 days of bombing and strafing from the air followed by 4 days of 'free fire' (meaning shoot anyone and everyone. --- Further war crimes beyond the siege are the shooting of ambulances; cutting power to hospitals, shooting people for no reason. This is not meant as full coverage of the events but the media was kept out except Darh Jamail who snuck in to witness such things as children coming in to a clinic, lit by lighters, with burns from illegally used White Phosphorus. - Use of U-238 commonly known as Depleted Uranium was heavily used and it is still causing cancers and babies born with cruel deformities. The war in Iraq continues today and Canada is in it - I protest Canada being there. -- Drones murdering in many countries - Sudan, Pakistan, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Syria etc. -- Syria invaded by gangs and terrorist supported by the USA and Saudi Arabia. This was no internal conflict. It is very similar to the many, many other coups and has much the flavour of the 1973 coup of a Democratic government of Chile that led to about a decade of terror by Pinochet and the USA remained good buddies with Pinochet as he murdered and disappeared thousands of Chileans - also similar the the insane war in el Salvador where the CIA was active in training Death Squads. If you're reading most Western Press on Syria this is not the truth, This is no internal revolution!

• Post Awarded 5 DR

[Russel Johnsen](#) • October 16, 2016 at 03:27 pm

As far as the West is concerned the media, especially that out of the USA, puts the blame on Muslim countries for the troubles when it has been the USA that has been most involved in causing war and strife throughout the region. The media here is terrible these days as Canada repeats nonsense out of the USA media. Sometimes, the Sun (which I've quit getting), was full of more American news than any of Canada. The journalism is also slanted in big favour of the USA. "Something is rotten in Denmark."

Our politicians, too, are very pro-USA and Israel for no reason except they must be uninformed. To have another Prime Minister and his colleagues this uninformed that they act irrationally is a horror, not only for Canadians, but for a world that thinks that Canada and Canadians are gifted with rational thought. Let's not forget the ongoing plight of Palestinians ongoing since 1948.

- Post Awarded 5 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 17, 2016 at 02:48 pm

I am delighted to learn that we, in Canada, have people like Russel, committed to the truth and are not easily intimidated or bought by our misleading media, which is little more than a shadow of the US media. Russel's analysis of the role of US imperialism in the Arab and Muslim world is well taken. We need the historical context for where Canada stands globally and in relation to important world events. I encourage members of the Canadian community, Muslims and non-Muslims to engage in this discussion. It is important for members of the community to express their experiences and/or opinions on how they see Islamophobia and the fear mongering practices and public speeches affecting the Muslim community at large and Muslim women more specifically. Any harm caused to the Muslim community is actually a threat to the Canadians at large. Muslim Canadians or Canadian Muslims are an integral part of this society and they remain to be so.

[John lacey](#) • October 17, 2016 at 09:05 pm

*Nahla Abdo wrote on October 17:*

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I have read the last two posts and agree with some points and not with others. Russel is quite correct the U.S. and U.K. interfering in matters in the Middle East and how they run their countries was a terrible mistake that has caused untold horrors and no real rulers of these countries that are fractioned able to stop the horror. We are responsible for that. Now we have millions of refugees that need a home with not enough room to accommodate them properly. Europe has tried and made the mistake of taking in too many refugees with no infrastructure to deal with it. It is now causing violence and hatred that looks like it will continue for a long time. If you are going to take refugees and make them feel part of your society and have genuine concern for their prolonged welfare you have to have the means to deal with it. That means enough education of the language and customs of the country. Housing and food until they can support themselves. Continued monitoring of progress to make sure things are fine. You take in more when the first are looked after. This is true whatever their country of origin although obviously lately it has been people of the Muslim faith.. In the city I live we have many Muslim immigrants and refugees. They were provided in the most part the infrastructure I have explained. For the most part people here respect their views and religion and they respect ours, we do not have problems. They have become productive members of Canadian society. I do not think that will change

unless the system is overloaded and the people have nothing to look forward to. Hopefully some leaders will come along and sort out the problems in the Middle East. I have not seen it yet but it is impossible for us to absorb everyone.

- Post Awarded 15 DR

[Jay Kaiser](#) • October 18, 2016 at 02:03 am

If you welcome refugees, show them love, let them experience the freedom and civil liberties we take for granted, & support them. They will integrate, they will change. They will grow and begin to sustain the economy and welfare systems. This is how you change the world. This is how you win "hearts and minds".

If you show them contempt and scorn, and turn your back, they will not assimilate. They will hold onto their old ways. They will segregate and develop resentment, the kind you showed to them. In today's wars there is little reconstruction, little periods of occupation resulting in political, economic, and cultural reformation. Instead we have overwhelming military might creating refugees and a country left in tatters. How we deal with these refugees matters. This is where the battle of hearts and minds can be won or lost.

If these Muslim refugees aren't received well they will create another generation of bigots, in 2 generations, maybe 3 we will be the minority. We have one option, teach them to love our way of life, include them in our celebrations and our activities we have grown to take for granted. Help them, learn about each other, be open, be our usual Canadian selves. In 20 or 30 years if we teach them nothing, they won't see any light in our way of life and they will continue a way of life they've always known in Syria, or Iraq, or Afghanistan, where women are sexual chattel, where religious law trump personal freedom.

We've already lost the battle for hearts and minds in those destroyed countries, to do nothing risks losing the battle at home as well.

- Post Awarded 5 DR

[Jay Kaiser](#) • October 18, 2016 at 02:35 am

*Nahla Abdo wrote on October 17:*

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Frankly, I haven't seen much Islamophobia. What I overwhelmingly see is antisemitism among Arabs and people of the Muslim faith. I feel that this radicalization goes hand in hand with antisemitism. I question the acceptance of radical imams in Wahhabi Saudi funded mosques across the country. As many as 80%

of North American mosques are funded by KSA and are teaching intolerance for Jews and/or Christians. Yes I agree it's important for the Muslim community to identify and refuse this radicalism, these mosques and imams. Who else is going to do it?

Intolerance towards others breeds more of the same. Polarizing people, creating conflict and resentment. The way to fight this ideology is to ensure we include the Muslim in our discussions, government, police, and way of living. However at the same time a very hard line must be taken with those who do become radicalized and those who preach hate. If this were to happen in the 1930's 40's or 50's the offender would be charged with treason and potentially face the death penalty. Today it is politically incorrect to even identify the problem which is radical, fundamental Islam, the kind practiced by Wahhabis and Salafists. How can we address the problem if we can't even feel free to openly discuss it. This is what the term "Islamophobia" has reduced us to. A phobia is an irrational fear, well there is nothing more rational than to fear a home schooled radical Islamist jihadi hell bent on raining fire down on the western way of life, something that has happened over and over again.

And Russel, trudging up the topic of Israel and Palestine is surely not a good way to start this conversation. Palestine has a right to exist as does Israel. Israel fights mostly a defensive war that hasn't ended for decades against a government who states right in their charter they wish to wipe the Jew from the face of the earth. A terrorist government who "loves death more than Jews love life". A government who's response to peace offerings by Israel is the famous 3 No's: No recognition of the state of Israel, No peace, and No negotiation with it. A people who's main export is terrorism, funded, promoted, and even school to elementary children by it's own government via school teachers, books with re-written and factually incorrect history, and radio and TV including cartoons for children. A government who rewards acts of terrorism on civilians (which turns out to mostly be lies anyways). Many people are taught to hate Israel before they can even locate it on a map. No this surely isn't a good way to begin the discussion.

- Post Awarded 15 DR

[Stephanie Dotto](#) • October 20, 2016 at 03:28 pm

*Jay Kaiser wrote on October 18:*

*Frankly, I haven't seen much Islamophobia (a term coined by CAIR btw). What I overwhelmingly see is antisemitism among Arabs and people of the Muslim faith. I feel that this radicalization goes hand in hand with antisemitism. I question the acceptance of radical imams in Wahhabi Saudi funded mosques across the country. As many as 80% of North American mosques are funded by KSA and are teaching intolerance for Jews and/or Christians. Yes I agree it's important for the Muslim community to identify and refuse this radicalism, these mosques and imams. Who else is going to do it?*

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The irrational part of the phobia lies not in fearing people who wish you harm, but in fearing millions and millions of people because a small sect of this group wishes you harm - and in advocating for state violence against these millions on those grounds.

The Oxford English Dictionary identifies the first usage of Islamophobia as occurring in 1923 in the Journal of Theology Studies. Edward Said, a seminal academic, used it in the 1980s. The usage of the term Islamophobe goes back even further, to 1877 when it appeared British literary magazine Athaeneum. As the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) was not founded until 1994, they could not have possibly invented the term.

Although I think it is important to support immigrants and refugees in every way possible, I loathe the dichotomy between "our way of life" and "their way of life," or the notion that Canadians have to "teach them Canadian values." Immigrants and refugees (Muslim or otherwise) are not uncivilized; and Canada is not so civilized as many Canadians would like to believe — as our treatment of our First Nations communities demonstrates. In fact, as many immigrants/refugees come from parts of the world still dealing with the trauma of colonialism and neo-colonialism, there is a great opportunity for solidarity between them and Indigenous Canadians.

[Jay Kaiser](#) • October 20, 2016 at 05:20 pm

*Stephanie Dotto wrote on October 20:*

*The irrational part of the phobia lies not in fearing people who wish you harm, but in fearing millions and millions of people because a small sect of this group wishes you harm - and in advocating for state violence against these millions on those grounds.*

It's not the violent extremists that are hard to deal with, it's the moderates who tolerate them and the hundreds of thousands, even millions that support the ideology, it's doctrines, and even fund them. If you have 40 or 50 thousand extremist radical Islamic terrorists, you have a million or even a few million, (some even say 50 million plus) people who feel the same way, but just don't act on it. Once the tables turn and you and I become the minority, those hundreds of thousands become quite vocal and even incite the terrorism.

So the radical terrorists who act can be easily found, stopped, killed, jailed, who cares.. but the silent moderate/radical is very difficult to identify and deal with. Our Muslim community is our first line of defense. We NEED them to help identify radicals and their areas of growth and recruiting. If we don't have them on our side we have lost. In the end these moderate peace loving people are receiving the most detriment, they should be jumping on the opportunity to take the radicals down who are harming their religion and way of life.

Lastly, indigenous people across the globe face racism, bigotry, genocide, slavery... I think if you took a good comparative look around, you'd see Canada treats both minorities and natives better than 80-90% of the planet. More can be done yes, but a lot is being done.

• Post Awarded 5 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 23, 2016 at 02:19 pm

To John Lacey, your logic in explaining the terrible consequences of the US (and allies) intervention in the Middle East, especially the Arab world, from Iraq, to Libya to Yemen to Syria... makes a lot of sense. And yes, if we decide to bring in refugees caused by Western imperialist interventions to Canada, we need to be able to care for them and to properly integrate them into our society. We should not suspect them or marginalise them or turn them into Others!

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 23, 2016 at 02:41 pm

Hello Jay Kaiser,

Thank you for your lengthy contribution to the discussion of which I agree with parts and disagreed with others. I agree with your first intervention regarding the need for mutual understanding and respect between all Canadians, citizens, refugees, immigrants, natives... As for your second part regarding your belief that there is anti-Semitism and Not Islamophobia, I disagree with you. It is first and foremost, important for you to realize that we Canadians reject (or should reject) all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. However, if you follow the the current situation in Syria, especially in Southern Syria, close to the Israeli occupied Syrian Golan Heights, where Al Qaeda (al-Nusra) is waging a terrorist war against the Syrian people and army, you find that these terrorists are largely aided by Israel. The latter takes Al-Qaeda injured in, gives them medical aid, puts them in its hospitals, and Israel's officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu goes, visits them and shakes hands with them. The same come back to Syria, through Israel's occupied Golan Heights with more training and ammunitions and continue their terrorist activities against the Syrian people. This suggests that Islamist radicals such as Jabhat al-Nusra (al-Qaeda) are closer to Israel than they are close to their own country (provided they or some of them are Syrian). In your last post you question the Saudi Wahhabi regime and ideology and their strong role in feeding Islamist radicals (ISIS and al-Nusra). I accept your position, and if you read my earlier post, you probably remember how I questioned the Canadian position on this particular regime and its role in the abuse of human and women's rights and in feeding radicalizations, yet our government maintains a good relationship with them for pure economic interests! Let me assure you this: "No one wants to wipe the Jews from the face of the earth", especially not the Palestinians who are the direct victims of Israel. Even those Palestinians who were ethnically cleansed from Palestine during the establishment of the state want their rights as human beings and not to "wipe out another people" as you say. A discussion of Israel/Palestine, while actually relevant and related, is very complex to bring here and we need a different venue, space and time to give it its proper analysis.

• Post Awarded 5 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 23, 2016 at 02:54 pm

Thank you Stephanie Dotto!

Yes, a first lesson in de-racializing and anti-racializing people is by watching one's words, concepts, names and attitudes. It is important to acknowledge our history and treatment of our aboriginal/native peoples, our black and people of colour and our immigrants... a history marred with racism, colonialism and settler colonial attitudes. Canadian colonial history (including language, attitudes and treatment) should not be re-invented. Let's help Canada reconcile its settler colonial racist path and help it paving a new path characterized by regard for justice, human rights, and respect for all ethnicities, cultures, creeds, religions and difference.

[Steve Nixon](#) • October 24, 2016 at 07:31 am



"Terrorism" has been a complete hoax since Bush started promoting it after 9/11. I suggest you read my book and take a look at how hopelessly ridiculous all of these "Terrorist" events are.

[https://www.amazon.ca/Terrorist-Hoax-Steve-Nixon/dp/1365159574/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1477308416&sr=8-1&keywords=The+terrorist+hoax](https://www.amazon.ca/Terrorist-Hoax-Steve-Nixon/dp/1365159574/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1477308416&sr=8-1&keywords=The+terrorist+hoax)  
Steve

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 25, 2016 at 02:18 pm  
Thank you Steve,

Your book sounds interesting. I look forward to reading it.

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 25, 2016 at 02:33 pm

As we are approaching the end of our discussion, I would like to see the participation of more women. Issues of "Muslim fundamentalism", "Islamic radicalization", "Islamophobia", "Orientalism", "ISIS", "Al-Nusra/Al-Qaeda", all other terrorist organizations exploiting Islam for their agenda, do not only concern men: They very much concern women as well. A strong voice by the women and men in Canada at large and within the community, more specifically, must be heard and respected. This voice can serve as a tool in changing existing, yet, unacceptable policies, practices, media representation and public attitudes in Canada.

[Steve Nixon](#) • October 25, 2016 at 08:48 pm

Here is a portion of my writing I would like to share regarding Muslims. This should underscore the sheer idiocy of Islamophobia.

The six-week-old Flying Terror

Six-year old Syed Adam Ahmed is on a no-fly list in Canada. This was discovered when he and his father were on their way to a hockey game in Boston flying out of Toronto's Pearson International Airport. First of all, the restriction of movement to an individual in any country is a violation of basic human rights. From Amnesty International's Human rights principles:

13. 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. 2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

The very existence of no-fly lists is a severe breakdown in human rights. The idea that a six-week-old child could be a threat to anyone is a severe breakdown in human intelligence.

Ahmed's Terrifying Clock.

In Irving, Texas, MacArthur High School student Ahmed Mohamed brought a homemade clock to school. His teachers thought the clock looked like a bomb. He was suspended and threatened with charges of making a hoax bomb. He was removed from the school in handcuffs and taken to a detention center. The alleged bomb was simply a circuit card with wires sticking out of it. There were no explosives found anywhere.

The only possible reason this event occurred is that the young man is a Muslim. This event underscores the degree of ignorance and stupidity that the US media has instilled in the population with its constant fear-mongering about Muslims. The incredibly bright young man was humiliated, threatened and incarcerated over a circuit card that clearly couldn't have harmed anyone.

#### The Terrifying Breast Pump Bomb.

Valarie Kaur, a Sikh, was removing a breast pump from a bag on an airline when a passenger behind her became angry and questioned her about the "weapon of mass extraction" she was holding. Eventually, an attendant arrived and identified the breast pump and the passengers breathed a sign of relief. It was a close call.

These next examples were cited in the Preventing Education? Human rights and UK Counter-terrorism Policy in schools study published by the Rights Watch UK organization.

#### The Cucumber Case

Under Prevent, teachers are hyper-vigilant, having, as they do, a positive duty to report under Prevent, with their action (or inaction) in this field being linked to their school's OFSTED rating. Given inadequately trained teachers, anxious to comply with duties to identify ambiguous apparent risk factors in children, it is hardly surprising that common sense is an early victim, as an incident relating to a four year-old child demonstrates. As his mother recounted to RW(UK), her son's nursery called her in and informed her that her son had 'been drawing inappropriate pictures.' The picture of apparent concern was described by her son as a drawing of his father slicing a cucumber: the nursery teacher said she thought the infant had said 'cooker-bomb.' By the time the mother was contacted, her son had already been referred under Prevent – the nursery was contacting her to ask for her signature on a formal referral record.

The mother expressed her surprise that the nursery would make a referral on a misunderstood act by her infant son: as the staff confirmed, there were no other incidents of concern. The mother asked why staff had rushed to judgment. In her words:

'I was a bit surprised because my daughter had gone to the same nursery school, and the staff had been there at the time, the Deputy [Head](#) had been there as long as I brought my kids there. So I told the Deputy, "You know me, why do you think I'm like this? What makes you think this? There's nothing else, it's just a picture." They said, "Yes, but it's what he said about this one picture." I was quite distraught and upset, so I said "Do I look like a terrorist to you?" It's a deradicalisation programme. I was shocked. And the nursery manager replied, "Did Jimmy Savile look like a paedophile to you?"'

#### The 'eco-terrorism' Case

While Rahmaan expressed political opinions, the Prevent duty has seen schools making referrals in respect of students who have expressed no opinion at all, and done nothing more than refer to certain words or concepts. This occurred in the case of a 14 year-old student in North London, who was removed last year from his French lesson by an adult he did not know and had not seen before, and questioned about whether or not he was affiliated with ISIL/Daesh.

The child's mother, Ifhat Smith, recently told RW(UK) that the first she had learned of the questioning was when her son returned from school visibly distressed following the questioning. When she rang the school to ask why her son had been questioned like that, the mother learned that her son's French teacher had removed the child from class and referred him for questioning. The child had, in a class discussion about deforestation, used the term 'l'écoterrorisme' to describe some anti-logging activists' tactics. The child had learned about counter-terrorism in the school debating society, and was trying to contribute what he had recently learned.

#### The T-shirt Case

RW (UK) interviewed the mother of an 8 year-old boy in east London referred to social services, apparently pursuant to the school's understanding of its Prevent duty. Two incidents were notified by the school. The first related to a T-shirt he wore to school which bore the words 'I want to be like Abu Bakr al-Siddique' (i.e. Abu Bakr the Truthful), a reference to the major Islamic figure Abu Bakr, popularly considered one of the first converts to Islam, and, according to the Sunni tradition, the first Caliph of the faith after the death of the Prophet Muhammad. In terms of significance, Abu Bakr might be considered to be analogous to, in the Christian faith, St Peter.

Steve

- Post Awarded 5 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 30, 2016 at 10:38 am

Again, Canadians should resent equating terrorism (IS/ISIS, Al-Nusra/Al-Qaeda and affiliates) with Islam and its tenets. These groups misuse and abuse Islam for their own aims. Any attempt at connecting or relating the actions of such groups with Islam, the religion of over 1.6 billion people, is what is known as Islamophobia or hate for Muslims. Our discussion here aims at fighting all forms of racism including Islamophobia!

- Post Awarded 5 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • October 30, 2016 at 10:40 am

I would like to thank all of you who participated in the discussion and would like to let you know that we will be continuing with the discussion, so do not stop adding your posts and thoughts to this discussion.

[Noéline Baumann](#) • November 1, 2016 at 05:27 pm

Pour ma part, je pense que combattre la radicalisation, c'est avant tout combattre une idéologie qui essaye de cibler de plus en plus les jeunes. Avec notre société du 21<sup>ème</sup> siècle où il est de plus en plus difficile pour les jeunes de s'intégrer, où les réseaux sociaux sont en quelques sortes à leur apogées, où les jeux vidéos et les films contenant de la violence deviennent de plus en plus banales, il est de plus en plus simple pour les islamistes radicaux de recruter des potentiels djihadistes. C'est pour cela que le gouvernement devrait mettre en place des conférences sur la radicalisation dans les écoles pour leur expliquer que s'engager dans le jihad, ce n'est pas jouer dans Call Of Duty, que notre pays est un pays de tolérance et d'acceptation et que la violence ne résout rien à part engendrer la haine. La prévention de la radicalisation passe par l'apprentissage et les connaissances, car l'homme a peur de ce qu'il ne connaît pas et préfère se fier à des préjugés plutôt qu'à une de ses propres expériences. Les citoyens doivent apprendre à faire la différence entre une personne d'origine arabe, un musulman et un islamiste afin de

ne pas marginaliser et stigmatiser des personnes innocentes. Puis, il est de la responsabilité de chaque individu à veiller à ce que ses proches abordent une bonne compréhension du monde et de l'importance de la paix.

- Post Awarded 5 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • November 4, 2016 at 02:11 pm

Welcome back to the second discussion Radicalization and connection or lack thereof to Islam. Welcome back to debating our needs for security and the attempts by sectors in our society, including the Media which fails, clearly and in no ambiguous terms, to dissociate Islam and Muslims from terrorism. Opinions made in this discussion which encourage understanding that Islamist radicalization in the forms of ISIS/IS/ISL/al-Nusra-al-Qaeda and other members of the same family of terrorist organizations, have nothing to do with Islam as religion, Muslims and or Arabs. Existing forms of radical Islamicization is an ideology (originated in the Wahhabi schools in Saudi Arabia), and serving political aims of control, colonialism and imperialism. A counter hegemonic ideology of anti-radicalized Islamicism: one which teaches the true values of Islam and respects Arab and Muslim culture is needed to teach our young generation here.

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • November 4, 2016 at 02:32 pm

Once again, welcome back to our discussion. We have a new positive development to report. According to various social media outlets and the Huffington Post, the Canadian Parliament has passed an anti-Islamophobia motion on October 26. We welcome the motion and express our thanks to the Canadian government. Yet, we should not stop here, as there remains some questions in need of answers:

First, a Brief discussion of the Background of the Motion will be provided as reported by social media:

A. This motion came amid an increase in attacks on mosques and Muslim communities in the country and throughout the world.

B. According to reports, it took a while for the parliament to adopt the motion, which was brought up after 70,000 Canadian citizens signed an online petition condemning Islamophobia. The petition was launched on June 8, 2016 and was closed for signature on October 6, 2016.

THE PETITION READS AS FOLLOWS: "We, the undersigned, Citizens and residents of Canada, call upon the House of Commons to join us in recognizing that extremist individuals do not represent the religion of Islam, and in condemning all forms of Islamophobia".

Still, it is noted that the Muslim community living in this country is dismayed. Why? Because this motion failed to receive any attention from Canadian media outlets. So, our question is: Why Do You Think Canadian Official Media Failed to Cover this Rather Important Motion?

[William Innes](#) • November 6, 2016 at 06:17 pm

It has been fascinating to read the wide ranging discussion on the subject of radicalization, to which I have the following reactions: -- I feel that most Canadians support the idea that we should treat each other with respect, and that our support for inclusive attitudes toward Muslims in general will reduce the likelihood of specific individuals becoming radicalized. -- It is clear and deplorable that a number of

individual Canadians direct their bigotry and racism towards members of the Muslim community and they should be condemned for this. -- It is also clear to me that islamaphobia is not a systematic characteristic of Canadian society, and I reject the idea that there is some fundamental flaw in Canadian values which is at the root of radicalization. -- I am comfortable with the assurance that the radical ideas of jihad have no foundation in Islamic teaching. However we cannot avoid the reality that a number of dangerous radicals have associated themselves with Islam, and I would agree with Jay Kaiser that for this reason the Muslim community can and should play a pivotal role in identifying at risk individuals and the threat from these few but potentially dangerous individuals. -- I also agree that there is a real opportunity for better education about radicalization in our school system. Can we see more discussion about how to deal with individual radicalization? -- One often reads that in some way Islamic teachings express condemnation even threats against " unbelievers/infidels". Is this true, and if so should mainstream Muslims be addressing this as supporting radical behavior? Thanks for a great conversation.

• Post Awarded 25 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • November 7, 2016 at 03:54 pm

*William Innes wrote on November 6:*

*It has been fascinating to read the wide ranging discussion on the subject of radicalization, to which I have the following reactions: -- I feel that most Canadians support the idea that we should treat each other with respect, and that our support for inclusive attitudes toward Muslims in general will reduce the likelihood of specific individuals becoming radicalized. -- It is clear and deplorable that a number of individual Canadians direct their bigotry and racism towards members of the Muslim community and they should be condemned for this. -- It is also clear to me that islamaphobia is not a systematic characteristic of Canadian society, and I reject the idea that there is some fundamental flaw in Canadian values which is at the root of radicalization. -- I am comfortable with the assurance that the radical ideas of jihad have no foundation in Islamic teaching. However we cannot avoid the reality that a number of dangerous radicals have associated themselves with Islam, and I would agree with Jay Kaiser that for this reason the Muslim community can and should play a pivotal role in identifying at risk individuals and the threat from these few but potentially dangerous individuals. -- I also agree that there is a real opportunity for better education about radicalization in our school system. Can we see more discussion about how to deal with individual radicalization? -- One often reads that in some way Islamic teachings express condemnation even threats against " unbelievers/infidels". Is this true, and if so should mainstream Muslims be addressing this as supporting radical behavior? Thanks for a great conversation.*

Thank you William for your thoughtful contribution. As for your statement: "One often reads that in some way Islamic teachings express condemnation even threats against unbelievers/infidels", my first question is: Where do you read this? I am fully convinced that such teachings are neither in the Shari'a nor in the Sunna. Muslim people throughout the Arab and Islamic world have been living together with many other religious, non-believers, communists and all sorts of ideological beliefs! Unless you refer here to writings by those groups who have been using, misusing, and abusing Islam and the Muslim faith for their own interests. These groups, whether following the Wahhabi teachings or others are enemies of Islam and not Muslims. In terms of your important question of how to deal with the individual radical? Well, not very different from the way Canada should be dealing with any individual who breaks the law. Criminals of any shape, type, creed, or religion should be treated as criminals... We have clear laws on this. Education on Islam and Muslims is needed in our society in order to correct existing perceptions on Islam. Also I totally support a careful screening of centres, places, mosques or any other space used to spread a Wahhabi kind of Islamist education. I regret our government's support

(especially military) of Saudi Arabia, but our government should ensure that Saudi Arabia's Wahhabi teaching should not be allowed in Canada, or anywhere in the world for that matter.

- Post Awarded 5 DR

[William Innes](#) • November 7, 2016 at 05:09 pm

Nhala — Thanks for your very thoughtful response. I must admit that the comment about infidels is not from any credible source, but it does indicate a problem in that there seems to be a lot of misinformation about Islam which is present in popular media. This would seem to call for main stream Muslims to be more proactive in denying these incorrect statements. I share your view about Wahabi-ism, and in Canada's case there doesn't even seem to be a geopolitical rationale for ignoring the threat from Wahabi-ism, given our abundant energy resources. Several year ago I was asked what I thought should be the #1 priority of the US president. My answer was then and is now, to become energy independent of the middle east. The west has for too long been hostage to fortune because of concerns about energy security. Thanks for your excellent leadership of this important discussion.

[Gil Mathers](#) • November 10, 2016 at 09:59 am

There are no moderate muslims - you are either Muslim or your not.

[Hussein Hamdani](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • November 10, 2016 at 03:38 pm

thank you everyone for your comments. I had technical issues, but now it looks like I get access the site without difficulty. I found Kenny and Gil's comments interesting because it speaks to the fear that some in our community have of the Muslim as the "other" - people who are not like us, don't share our values, teach hatred in their Mosques. Crimes committed by Muslims should received special sanction.... it is a narrative that I find dangerous because it is precisely the narrative that terrorists like ISIS and al Qaeda want to promote. This narrative tries to convince Muslim youth that the West will never accept Muslims or their religious ways and that they have no home in the West. the narrative continues that only with isis will they find their true home. this narrative is false. The Canadian Muslim community counters this narrative by proclaiming Canada as our home and Canadians as our brethren. We belong here (not over there). Recent IPSOS poll showed that Canadian Muslims are more patriotic than non-Canadian Muslims. It is important to not fall victim to false lies about one another that those on the fringes want us to believe.

[Ava Hansen](#) • November 14, 2016 at 07:03 pm

I recently listened to a well-done podcast by NPR's podcast "Invisibilia" called "Flip the Script." <http://www.npr.org/podcasts/510307/invisibilia>

It talked about how a town in Denmark lost many young people who were inspired to become radicalist fighters because of how unaccepted they felt in the town or country and because they felt incredibly misunderstood. The "flip" was the town welcoming them back and making space for them to be part of the community, not in a way that assimilated, but in a way that encouraged the youth to take up space in their own ways.

I think that allowing people to take up space in a positive way, and creating more space to be filled, is essential.

- Post Awarded 10 DR

[Hicham Harb](#) • November 14, 2016 at 09:18 pm

Dear Stephanie Dotto. Allow me to disagree with the point you are trying to make when referring to the topic of discussion. what you are saying that because the discrimination against the Muslim minority in Europe and the West Muslims retaliated and that we have to deal with Islamophobia and white supremacy first to be able to deal with radical Islam, basically wherever there is discrimination against Muslims, white supremacy, and Islamophobia that will lead to the rise of radical Islam, if that is true how do you explain radical Muslim in the middle east countries where there is no Islamophobia , discrimination against Muslims, or white supremacy??? I believe there are ways to fight this ideology that is being there for hundreds of years . one \_ I agree with Jay Kaiser and William Innes when they said that the Muslim community has a role to play . This role consists of identifying the problems and then rejecting/opposing these problems. For example if we were to open the Quran to chapter of Al Taoba and read verse 29 , according to it and the explanation of Ibn Kathir, one of their most knowing scholars, it says that Muslims should fight all non-believers until they pay AL Jeezia . These teachings should be revoked, struck down, and opposed by the Muslim community. Two- education is very important and plays a huge role as well . We need to be educated on radicals where they come from and their intentions and the harm that rises from such ideology to be able to protect our society .

• Post Awarded 5 DR

[Hicham Harb](#) • November 14, 2016 at 09:49 pm

I agree that some foreign policy of the United States have caused many crisis but what I don't agree on is blaming USA for all of it . There is a destructive role that some of the Arab countries have played during the past 50 years we can not deny that these radicals that fight in the name of Islam speak the Arabic language and were taught Islam in Arabic Muslim schools and not in western or European public schools . USA used these people for its own agenda but what's very important for us to remember is that these people graduated from Arabic schools that taught them these radical beliefs.

[Hicham Harb](#) • November 14, 2016 at 10:30 pm

I've read a lot of people's comments on this issue and I have to say that I agree with some but what I realized is that a lot of people try to point the fingers and direct the issue to the western policy and create an idea that totally denies the facts, as if the teachings that these radical Muslims get are from Harvard University and it's Allies. The truth is that these beliefs are written in Arabic by Muslim scholars such as Ibn Kathir, Ibn Taimia, Al Tabary, Al Bokhary, and many others that were explaining the Quran. Instead of attacking the issue I noticed that some people try to sugar coat it . Nahla you said there are no teachings that say to fight infidels and non-believers?? Read a book by Ibn Kathir, one of the most credible scholars of Islam, called the beginning and the end, he explains every verse of the Quran, why it was said and when it was said , and you will realize that the problem lies within the teachings. The way to deal with this issue is to know where it came from and then educate people on it which will lead to revoke these teachings. there has to be a movement , by the Muslim community saying out loud, to revoke, deny, and oppose these teachings and books.

• Post Awarded 5 DR

[Stephanie Dotto](#) • November 15, 2016 at 10:14 am

Ava, I will have to listen to that podcast! That's interesting because I was just reading this article about how unwelcoming Denmark is to outsiders ( <http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21707984-why->

[do-so-many-foreigners-want-copy-denmark-cocoa-candlelight](#) ) . . . so I imagine this sort of initiative is much-needed.

Hicham, you asked me how do I explain fundamentalism in countries "where there is no Islamophobia, discrimination against Muslims, or white supremacy." I wonder if there is a country in the Middle East that \*hasn't\* experienced all three in the form of European colonialism, and if in most cases we can't trace the strife in these countries back to colonial scars.

I generally think of holy texts as incredibly self-contradictory works subject to wildly differing interpretations. Extremists will find verses in the Old Testament, the New Testament, the Book of Mormon, the Koran, even works of philosophy and literature, to serve their oppressive and violent ends.

We can't generalize about what happens in "Muslim Schools" anymore than we can generalize about what happens in "Christian schools," and we can't lay responsibility for terrorism at the feet of some imaginary monolithic community of "Muslims." What does "Muslim community" even mean? If we were to talk of a "Christian community," we'd be talking about a group with so many geographical, cultural, political, ideological differences (think: Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Amish, United Church, Maronite Christians, Baptist, Westboro Baptist, Mormons, Mormon Fundamentalists, Charismatic Catholics, Anglican, Methodist, Seventh-Day Adventist, Lutheran, Mennonite, Old-Order Mennonite, Pentecostal, Jehovah's Witnesses) as to render the idea of "community" practically meaningless.

We wouldn't lay the sins of somebody from one of these groups on the shoulders of all Christian people, so why do we do this to Muslims, when the Muslim faith is similarly diverse, with many different sects, schools, national variations, etc? It's ineffective and absurd at best, and at worst it becomes the justification for stripping millions of their human rights. To that end, I do agree that we need to be better-educated about where terrorism comes from.

- Post Awarded 15 DR

[John lacey](#) • November 15, 2016 at 04:20 pm

There have been many different posts with differing opinions on the problem of radicalism from Islam and Muslim society. It is a complicated subject but I believe made more complicated than it is by so called Western Society. The Middle East was going along just fine, it was not democratic and unacceptable by our standards. There were some problems and eventually would have resolved themselves as we did many years ago. We used to perform many atrocities in the name of religion, burning people at the stake, drawing and quartering but we evolved and more humane laws over the years were brought into effect thereby creating a humane society in the majority of the world. We decided that was not acceptable and would help them all become democratic, self governing and give them freedom to decide on their own society. Didn't we do a good job most of the Middle East is in complete disarray with millions of refugees. No health care, no food, no education which many of them had until we decide to HELP them out. Now the conversation is how to assimilate Muslims and Christians to live together in harmony in our society because we have left them nowhere else to go.. It is really quite simple. Respect each others views make it quite plain that some of the parts of the more radical views are not acceptable in our society and work together to eradicate those actions and I emphasise work together. Whippings and stonings and some of the treatment women receive are from the middle ages and they have to go. Women are not treated as well as in Western society in some cases, I believe that will evolve on it's own as women become more educated in what they should



expect. It seems in Europe there is a problem with Sharia law which I have to say I do not fully understand. If Sharia law has some merit then incorporate into the countries law, it cannot be separate and have any standing. As I said in my previous post we have many Muslims in our community and have very few problems. The reason being they are welcomed and looked after until they can be self sufficient. People without hope will be people filled with hate for the position they find themselves in.

• Post Awarded 5 DR

[Louise Mayer](#) • November 17, 2016 at 08:48 am

There is not enough love in this world, too much hate, too much prejudice and not enough caring. I think the media is also part of the problem. The media today seems to be nothing more than a u.s. propaganda tool and this has to stop. Make the media accountable for what they report but since the u.s. owns canadian media this will be hard to accomplish. First I think we must look at the truth and the real reason for the increase in extremism. It goes back to the u.s. illegal invasion of iraq in 2003 it created exactly what we are seeing today. It is time to stop bombing foreign countries and carrying out regime change and the world must denounce this as it has become common place. World leaders must speak with each other and work together to promote peace not war or nothing will change it will only get worse.

• Post Awarded 5 DR

[Husseini Hamdani](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • November 18, 2016 at 06:19 pm

thank you for the posts. for years, I used to say that societies can be more safe and secure, if we are willing to do the following three pronged steps (not in any particular order):

1. The government and her agencies must ensure that they do not pass laws or enact policies that unfairly target or discriminate a certain class of people. if this happens, members of that class of people will feel alienated and disenfranchised, which makes them easier prey for criminal recruiters.
2. Communities themselves must ensure that they have zero tolerance for hate speech or demonizing other communities. Personally, I have heard far too many people demonize others. When you demonize and dehumanize others, it is far easier to accept that civil liberties should be curtailed for those people, or worse, it is far easier to commit acts of violence against the wider society.
3. All Canadians must ensure that we get to know one another better. It is easy to believe in the demonization of other peoples if you do not know those other peoples. We cannot allow ourselves to "other" one another. In my experience, the more that we get to know one another, the more we realize that the person is much like ourselves: they care about their health, their children's education, safety, etc.

if nations and societies were willing to endorse these three prongs: 1. governments ensuring that no one is discriminated and disenfranchised; 2. communities policing themselves to make sure that they are not a source of hate; and 3. all of us willing to get to know one another, visit one another's place of worship or community centre, I believe that we will have taken positive steps in the right direction.

• Post Awarded 10 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • November 20, 2016 at 12:22 pm

The last three posts or so have been enlightening and productive. This type of discourse and discussion which delve deeply into the issues without prejudice, hate and loathing of the Other are exactly what is needed in discussing Canadian diversity and a world that can live together peacefully. Thank you Stephanie and the others for taking a role in discussing the issues of radicalism in our society in such seriousness. With Canadians like all of you, I am sure we can build a better Canada: one that tolerates difference, resist extremisms of all forms and respects all. Keep the positive and constructive spirit coming to this discussion!

- Post Awarded 5 DR

[Simon Safro](#) • November 26, 2016 at 09:06 am

Nahla Abdo wrote on October 23:

*Hello Jay Kaiser,*

*Thank you for your lengthy contribution to the discussion of which I agree with parts and disagreed with others. I agree with your first intervention regarding the need for mutual understanding and respect between all Canadians, citizens, refugees, immigrants, natives... As for your second part regarding your belief that there is anti-Semitism and Not Islamophobia, I disagree with you. It is first and foremost, important for you to realize that we Canadians reject (or should reject) all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. However, if you follow the the current situation in Syria, especially in Southern Syria, close to the Israeli occupied Syrian Golan Heights, where Al Qaeda (al-Nusra) is waging a terrorist war against the Syrian people and army, you find that these terrorists are largely aided by Israel. The latter takes Al-Qaeda injured in, gives them medical aid, puts them in its hospitals, and Israel's officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu goes, visits them and shakes hands with them. The same come back to Syria, through Israel's occupied Golan Heights with more training and ammunitions and continue their terrorist activities against the Syrian people. This suggests that Islamist radicals such as Jabhat al-Nusra (al-Qaeda) are closer to Israel than they are close to their own country (provided they or some of them are Syrian). In your last post you question the Saudi Wahhabi regime and ideology and their strong role in feeding Islamist radicals (ISIS and al-Nusra). I accept your position, and if you read my earlier post, you probably remember how I questioned the Canadian position on this particular regime and its role in the abuse of human and women's rights and in feeding radicalizations, yet our government maintains a good relationship with them for pure economic interests! Let me assure you this: "No one wants to wipe the Jews from the face of the earth", especially not the Palestinians who are the direct victims of Israel. Even those Palestinians who were ethnically cleansed from Palestine during the establishment of the state want their rights as human beings and not to "wipe out another people" as you say. A discussion of Israel/Palestine, while actually relevant and related, is very complex to bring here and we need a different venue, space and time to give it its proper analysis.*

Dear Abdo, there are some issues that make me feel very uncomfortable. Let's start from the beginning. Radicalization. Have you ever heard that thousands of Muslims demonstrated again atrocities of radical Islamic groups anywhere in the world? I think you have not. Does it mean that majority of Muslims sympathize radical Islamic groups? I do not think so, but many yes. When we talk about Canada we see that radical Islam reached this country. What to do? Regarding Israel/Arab conflict. You mentioned that Israel aids Al Qaeda in Syria. Where from is this information coming, what are sources? As far as I read Israeli hospitals in the North in Golan Heights accept wounded patients and civil citizens from Syria for treatment. This is because of democratic and human face of this small country. They do not distinguish between fighting groups. Moreover Al Qaeda one of organizations that is willing to destroy Israel. Regarding existence of Israel and Arabs/Israeli conflict it is better to turn to valid historical sources not only ancient and Middle Ages but also to the beginning of conflict in 1920th to 1949. Provided Arab

Sheikhs would have agreed to UN resolution and did not start war against young State of Israel the situation for Arabs might have been different. The following wars and conflicts worsened the situation. Also there is a new ethnic category - Israeli Arabs - more than 1.5 million people. They live in Israel and have all civil rights as any of Israeli citizen, including participation in government, Knesset, and government agencies. What is important for Canada is to convince Muslims who come to this country to adopt laws, regulations and tradition of Canada and together with Canadians step out against extremism of radical Islamic groups (Boko Haram, ISIS, Al Qaeda, As Shaab, Muslim brothers, etc.), reject Sharia Law in this country, reject hate speeches of Imams in Mosques, make all efforts to integrate to existing Canadian society not trying to change it according to their religious views.

- Post Awarded 5 DR

[Simon Safro](#) • November 26, 2016 at 09:06 am

*Russel Johnsen wrote on October 16:*

*As far as the West is concerned the media, especially that out of the USA, puts the blame on Muslim countries for the troubles when it has been the USA that has been most involved in causing war and strife throughout the region. The media here is terrible these days as Canada repeats nonsense out of the USA media. Sometimes, the Sun (which I've quit getting), was full of more American news than any of Canada. The journalism is also slanted in big favour of the USA. "Something is rotten in Denmark." Our politicians, too, are very pro-USA and Israel for no reason except they must be uninformed. To have another Prime Minister and his colleagues this uninformed that they act irrationally is a horror, not only for Canadians, but for a world that thinks that Canada and Canadians are gifted with rational thought. Let's not forget the ongoing plight of Palestinians ongoing since 1948.*

Some of your previous remarks have sense. But in this particular comment you ask why Some Canadian politicians are pro-USA and pro-Israeli? So there is a reason. USA is the closest neighbor with whom Canada exchanges not only goods but also intellectual products, cultural achievements including tourism. The same we have with Israel. This tiny state provides a lot of useful things for the whole world, rich of tourist sites, place of five religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Druz religion and Bahai religion) and it is the only democratic country in the Near East which is really friendly to Canada.

[Simon Safro](#) • November 26, 2016 at 09:06 am

*Nahla Abdo wrote on October 23:*

*Hello Jay Kaiser,*

*Thank you for your lengthy contribution to the discussion of which I agree with parts and disagreed with others. I agree with your first intervention regarding the need for mutual understanding and respect between all Canadians, citizens, refugees, immigrants, natives... As for your second part regarding your belief that there is anti-Semitism and Not Islamophobia, I disagree with you. It is first and foremost, important for you to realize that we Canadians reject (or should reject) all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. However, if you follow the the current situation in Syria, especially in Southern Syria, close to the Israeli occupied Syrian Golan Heights, where Al Qaeda (al-Nusra) is waging a terrorist war against the Syrian people and army, you find that these terrorists are largely aided by Israel. The latter takes Al-Qaeda injured in, gives them medical aid, puts them in its hospitals, and Israel's officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu goes, visits them and shakes hands with them. The same come back to Syria, through Israel's occupied Golan Heights with more training and ammunitions and continue their terrorist activities against the Syrian people. This suggests that Islamist radicals such as Jabhat al-Nusra (al-Qaeda) are closer to Israel than they are close to their own country*

*(provided they or some of them are Syrian). In your last post you question the Saudi Wahhabi regime and ideology and their strong role in feeding Islamist radicals (ISIS and al-Nusra). I accept your position, and if you read my earlier post, you probably remember how I questioned the Canadian position on this particular regime and its role in the abuse of human and women's rights and in feeding radicalizations, yet our government maintains a good relationship with them for pure economic interests! Let me assure you this: "No one wants to wipe the Jews from the face of the earth", especially not the Palestinians who are the direct victims of Israel. Even those Palestinians who were ethnically cleansed from Palestine during the establishment of the state want their rights as human beings and not to "wipe out another people" as you say. A discussion of Israel/Palestine, while actually relevant and related, is very complex to bring here and we need a different venue, space and time to give it its proper analysis.*

I am not sure where from do you get this information. First of all, Israel treats all wounded in Syria who crossed the border on Golan Heights (those who were involved in military actions and civil citizens of Syria). When Israel fire rockets (very-very rare occasions) onto territory of Syria - it is because missiles from other side reach Golan Heights and are threat to people working in the gardens and fields, in the different enterprises. Now, about Islamophobia in Canada. Canada brings in many ethnic groups from different countries. Nobody has to say a word against Muslims - it is their democratic right to follow Islam. However, Muslim immigrants want to change some rules in traditionally Christian Canada (I know you have objections to this passage). Second, recently we had terrorist act in Ottawa, and some terrorist groups were arrested in Ontario and Quebec, dozens of Muslim Canadians joined As-Shaab in Somalia, Boko-Haram in Central North Africa, ISIS in the Middle East, Al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Why is this? First of all, even on the first steps of entering Canada people should be advised that this is country though tolerant to other cultures and religions has its own culture, traditions and civil laws and regulations that can be different from what newcomers had in their homeland. Second, I do not support segregation - and what we have religious Jews want to live in the districts with religious Jews, Hindu want to live nearby with Hindu families, Muslims from Pakistan want to live in area where majority are from Pakistan and so on. We are thinking of Canadian nation as a whole. There should be a process of integration. Next, there were conflicts about niqab, hijab, etc. Muslim or other religions and ethnic groups representative should know that in certain places they must wear what is required by etiquette of this particular office. Now, very important to control what imams preach in mosques (hate speeches, radical speeches). It is important to reach newcomers and explain them in this or other form that honor killings, other barbaric traditions are not acceptable in Canada and those who cross the red line will be prosecuted. We have pretty good examples of integration among Chinese, Philippines, East Europeans, Latinos. I would support organisations that will work with young Muslims and help them to know other cultures, religions, Canadian traditions, which help them to meet young people from other confessions and discuss actual problems.

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • November 26, 2016 at 01:30 pm

Thank you Simon for your various (3) posts. You do raise some important questions there. In various places you also answer your own questions assuring yourself that you are right and that the person you are writing against (myself) also agrees with you! This is clear in your first question (post # 1) where you ask if I have ever heard of "thousands of Muslims demonstrated again atrocities of radical Islamic groups anywhere in the world? And when you answer on my behalf that you think "I have not"!

This is a misinformed question and an erroneous and baseless answer!

First and foremost, in my earlier responses to various posts I warned against equating terrorist and terrorists such as ISIS, al-Qaeda and their brothers with Islam. These terrorist organizations, use, misuse and abuse Islam for their political interests!

Evidence suggests that not only thousands but rather millions of Muslims (and Christians) - the two main religions in the Arab world – including those under war conditions, such as in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, have resented and protested against ISIS, Al-Qaeda and the terrorism they wreak in their countries; Muslim organizations all over the world including the US Council of Muslim Organizations have repeatedly lashed out at ISIS and other terrorist groups who use , misuse, and abuse Islam to serve their interests and the interests of their supporters (not only the West, but also Arab/Muslim countries including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Emirates, Turkey, etc.,)

Over 70,000 Indian Muslim clerics issued a fatwa against Isis, the Taliban, al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

The Islamic Supreme Council of Canada issued a fatwa condemning attacks by extremists and terrorists in the US or Canada, considering such attacks as an attack on Muslims living in North America.

Remember that the primary victims of these Islamist radicals have been Muslims!

Muslims are NOT SILENT NOR COMPLACENT with ISIS as our media tends to portray the issues, or AS YOU THINK! Muslims are loudly condemning all these groups (including Boko Haram in Nigeria and Al-Shabab in Somalia). PLEASE NOTE: The Somali group is called Al-Shabab and not as you wrote several times “Al-Shaab”. Just in case, al-Shaab which is an Arabic term, means “the people”, while al-Shabab, also an Arab term means the youth! In case you do not know, both Somalia and Nigeria are African countries, not Middle Eastern and not Arab (Somalia’s membership in the Arab League could be discussed separately!).

Your posts are very much about erecting a wedge between us (you) and them (Muslims/other). You must remember that Canada which originally and historically is the land of the natives/aboriginal peoples is yours as much as it belongs to all Canadians: settlers and immigrants alike. You like every other Canadian is a settler/immigrant and their and your rights of citizenship are equal!

Before going into your misinformed discussion of Palestine/Israel, I will address your question, “What is to be done”. You say: “What is important for Canada is to convince Muslims who come to this country to adopt laws, regulations and tradition of Canada and together with Canadians step out against extremism of radical Islamic groups (Boko Haram, ISIS, Al Qaeda, As Shaab, Muslim brothers, etc.), reject Sharia Law in this country, reject hate speeches of Imams in Mosques, make all efforts to integrate to existing Canadian society not trying to change it according to their religious views.”

Here again, you commit the error we warned against in earlier responses, namely, essentializing all Muslims. In case you do not know there are Muslims, all over the Arab and non-Arab world who are also secular, exactly as there are secular Christians and Jews!

Historically and currently, all settlers/immigrants to Canada are allowed in only after being carefully screened for security reasons and according to Canadian laws and regulations. As for your “Canadian tradition”! Whose tradition are you referring to here? Which Canadians: aboriginals? Indians, Chinese, Arabs, Greeks...? Isn’t what characterizes Canada its multiplicity of cultures, traditions and ethnicities?

Most Muslims all over the world follow Sharia laws as such laws regulate their private relations (marriage, divorce and family laws), not unlike the Christian world which follows the church (being Catholics, Protestants...etc., I do not understand what you mean by “reject sharia Law”. Aren’t the overwhelming Canadian (Christian) weddings happening in Churches and according to Christian laws? If so, you should allow Muslims who want to follow Sharia in their private lives to do so. I would agree with you that the secular Canadian tradition which separates state from church and gives Canadians the right to choose Christian (Church) or civil marriage, should also apply to Muslims: give them the choice between religious and secular marriage. The principle of the separation between State and Church should apply to all other religions. In other words, no religious laws should be imposed on any denomination in Canada.

In your posts you seem to be repeating your lack of information, ignorance or resistance to understanding or acknowledging the role of the West (including Israel) in supporting, aiding, training, arming and transporting terrorists from all over the world via Turkey to Syria or Iraq! This is a very long discussion and must be addressed historically, beginning with the US and allies war on Iraq and Afghanistan, and the CIA role which led to the rise in of the phenomenon of al-Qaeda, and later ISIS which is basically an off-shoot of al-Qaeda. By now many intellectuals, authors and writers, including in some main-stream media, (e.g., the NYT, the Guardian and many more) have established clearly and unmistakably the involvement and role of the US, including Hilary Clinton in the development of this phenomenon and the ways such terrorist groups are used to serve the interests of Western imperialism. The internet is full of information and you can learn a lot from such information.

Note: acknowledging your ideological position on all issues discussed and the side you decided to take, all references or sources (as you might refer to them) will be carefully selected: No Arab or Muslim authors will be mentioned, but only Western and in the case of Israel, Israeli Jews!

For reports on the US support of ISIS I suggest you read the research done by one respected Canadian research institute: [globalresearch.ca](http://globalresearch.ca). You can also see “how the US fueled the rise of ISIS in Syria and Iraq by Seumas Milne (The Guardian, June 3, 2015, the Independent over the last 3 years!), or if you want to read more sophisticated analysis, you can look up world leading analysts like Noam Chomsky, Seymour Hersh, Jonathan Cook, Richard Falk, Robert Fisk... let me know if you need more!!!

You probably know that Turkey which is a member of NATO and a close friend of us and the US \ has been the core country which opened its borders to tens of thousands of ISIS and al-Qaeda members from over 90 countries to go to Syria. One would only wonder, if the West (and its allies) are against ISIS and al-Qaeda why did they allow its friend Turkey to take this role? You don’t need a lot of efforts to learn more on this, just click the internet with the right question and a ton of information will be presented to you for free!

It is no surprise that Westerners in general who have been educated that Israel is their best friend; that it is the only democracy in the Middle East; that it treats its citizens equally and that it only provides humanitarian aid...so on and so forth... always come to its defense even when it is guilty of murder!

Well, here again let me enlighten you by suggesting some readings NOT BY PALESTINIANS, but BY ISRAELI JEWISH AUTHORS. If you want to know how Israel was established? What policies and practices has it been using against Palestinians? And How its laws have been and still are racist at the core, you can read: Ilan Pappé (on how Israel conducted “ethnic cleansing”/genocide against Palestinians), or Gideon Levy in Haaretz (on how Israel cannot be Jewish and Democratic), or Oren Ben Dor (on Israel as

originally Apartheid and settler colonial), or Yoav Peled and Girshon Shafir on Israel's settler colonial regime, or Uri Davis on Israel as Apartheid state. The list goes on and I will be very happy to provide you with more on this.

Note here that I chose only Israeli Jewish writers writing about the Apartheid, settler colonial nature and character of Israel for several reasons. These include the fact that, the stories of Palestinian victims of the "Nakba" (Israeli genocide of Palestinians in 1948) as well as the writings of Palestinian sociologists, historians, anthropologists and so on, who have been documenting their history for many years have been ignored by the West who neglected their stories and refused to listen to them. Even when "objective" Western scholars documented Palestinian massacres, rapes, killings and the destruction of about 500 Palestinian villages during the Nakba, the mainstream ideas, ideologies, press and western governments chose to neglect these historical facts. You may want to know something about the Palestinian Nakba. If you have read about the genocide of aboriginal peoples anywhere in the US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia or elsewhere, you may also want to read about the Palestinian genocide!

No, Palestinians in Israel (citizens) are not equal to Jews: In Israel, you have separate laws for Jews than for Palestinian Arab citizens. Take for example the right of return which gives Jews all over the world the right to live in Israel, while denying Palestinians who were thrown out of their homes, villages and cities by Israel and became refugees, the right to go back to their own homes; Look at Israeli Land Laws which prevent Palestinians from living on or owning lands (even if these were their own lands which were confiscated by the state – Israel).

How do you explain Israel's two systems of education: one highly developed for Jews and one under-developed for Palestinians? How do you explain the phenomenon of the highest rates of poverty and unemployment being among Palestinian (Arab) citizens? I can go on and on, but if you need to really learn about what Israel really is and not what mainstream media and Western governments say about Israel, I will be glad to share with you references based on actual records and extensive data based on Israel's own statistics, reports, research and NGOs!

- Post Awarded 25 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • November 27, 2016 at 07:27 pm

Today as we are approaching the end of our discussion on Muslims and Security in Canada, I would like to recognize your contributions and thank you for participating in the Canadian Difference Project. Your active and diverse contributions has enriched our discussion and made it particularly interesting.

In summing up our discussion, we would like to note that Canadians have different positions and opinions on how to deal with the issues of Islam/Muslims and Canadian security. While some of you, unfortunately, continued to hold the same old Orientalist views on Arabs and Muslims, others refused to hold on on such racist positions and insisted on building a Canada free of prejudice, racism, and "othering". Our discussion raised important issues and questions, the answers to which are still far from being addressed adequately: issues which continue to be a big concern for all of us, Canadians. Among these: Is Canada really and actually threatened by extremists Islamists? What is our evidence? Have we been clear on the fact that these terrorists use, misuse and abuse Islam for their interests and the interests of their supporters? Have we stopped generalizing and essentializing all Muslims? How has Canada responded to extremists, such as al-Qaeda (al-Nusra), ISIS, Nur el-din al-Zinki, Boko Haram, al-Shabab... etc.,? Why does Canada continue to support countries (Muslim/Arab) such as Saudi Arabia,

Qatar and other Gulf countries, despite acknowledging the lack of democracy or rather, the anti-democratic regimes in those countries; their grave abuse of human rights; their oppression of women and crack down on any opposition even if such opposition was in the form of a poem or a tweet? More importantly, why Canada continues to aid, at least militarily such countries, knowing fully and clearly that the billions of dollars spent on training, arming and recruiting such terrorists (especially ISIS) from all over the world has and continues to come from these countries? What is our responsibility as a country which adheres to International laws and international human rights? Why are we covering up on the atrocities of these regimes? Our discussion also dealt with the one-sided mainstream media which is in cahoots with that of the US and most (but not all) European media?

We need to work on keeping Canada strong, independent and sovereign, making foreign decisions based on justice and not on what the others dictate! Finally, it is rather natural that when we discuss the Middle East, we bring Israel and its role in the current crisis in this area. It is only logical that we consider Israel's continuous occupation of Arab lands, not only Palestinian territories but also Syrian territories (the Golan Heights) and Lebanese territories (in the South). We must have a position on Israel's settler colonial regime. We must resent and struggle against any country which occupies other peoples and other countries. We need be consistent: refusing our unjust policies towards our aboriginal/native indigenous peoples and be ready to apply such policies to all other indigenous peoples, including the Palestinians.

I hope this, rather brief discussion on Canadian Difference, contributes to better understanding of the issues raised.

## [How can we balance our humanitarian desires and our security needs?](#)

### [Discussion Overview](#)

Canada's willingness to assist refugees – those fleeing persecution other countries – has played such a large role in the public image of Canada as a welcoming country.

[Joanne Mason](#) • November 3, 2016 at 11:42 am

I believe to address the security concern would should bring in the Yazidi and Christian refugees. Genocide is being committed against both groups and they need our help. These two groups would also not be a security concern and we can fulfill our humanitarian obligations.

• Post Awarded 10 DR

[Diane Calvert](#) • November 4, 2016 at 06:54 pm

I have a large concern about the speech coming from Kellie Leitch who is running for the Conservative leadership; She seems to have taken a page from Donald Trump's play book and targeting Muslims. This disturbs me. I see the hate and division in the USA and I dread that coming into Canada. I understand this is a dog whistle issue and I cannot believe that she would sink so low. These people are very well vetted and I guess they wait 2 years for the process. What she is doing is inhuman. They have already been through hell and then to have them come to Canada to be victimized is un-canadian. This hate speech has a way of moving very fast. It caters to the poor uneducated who need to focus blame for their situation on others. Leitch needs to stop this. She is not making Canada a better place. She is systematically destroying what makes us unique. Diversity. Do you remember during the last federal



election. She wanted to have a 1-800- report barbaric treatment line. So I guess if you see someone decapitating someone you call Kellie. I guess 911 is going out of business. Kellie please drop this trump idea. It has only hurt the USA and you will only hurt Canada. I will fight you on this. I will work for your opponents and do everything I can to stop you from making Canada a hate filled divisive country

• Post Awarded 5 DR

[Randy Gollmer](#) • November 6, 2016 at 06:08 am

I do NOT, will NOT, and Can NOT accept this Liberal New age thinking that all the countries in the world MUST accept the MASS MIGRATION of millions of REFUGEES into Europe, the UK CANADA and the U.S. I am opposed to this, will continue to oppose this, speak out against it at town halls, social media and any other venue available. It is wrong, it is cultural suicide...indeed cultural MURDER, and Justin Trudeau needs to see this before Canada ends up like Germany. Muslims do NOT ASSIMILATE, they DOMINATE.

• Post Awarded 10 DR

[Diane Calvert](#) • November 6, 2016 at 03:03 pm

*Randy Gollmer wrote on November 6:*

*I do NOT, will NOT, and Can NOT accept this Liberal New age thinking that all the countries in the world MUST accept the MASS MIGRATION of millions of REFUGEES into Europe, the UK CANADA and the U.S. I am opposed to this, will continue to oppose this, speak out against it at town halls, social media and any other venue available. It is wrong, it is cultural suicide...indeed cultural MURDER, and Justin Trudeau needs to see this before Canada ends up like Germany. Muslims do NOT ASSIMILATE, they DOMINATE.*

This is nonsense and I think you need to back it up with facts. Just show me how this hate speech has helped the USA during this past election. They have a better chance of getting killed by their toddler shooting them with a misplaced gun. In Canada the few incidents we have had have been home grown. Name one negative incident since the 31K refugees came to Canada in December. Unless you are first Nations your family came from somewhere else. Canada is a nation of immigrants. We need the diversity, we need the population with our aging population. What is wrong with you? When did you get so mean and selfish. Those people need our help much like the jews did under the NAZIs. Would you have denied them too? Shame on you. Are you even Canadian?

[Christine Brooks](#) • November 6, 2016 at 03:12 pm

*Diane Calvert wrote on November 6:*

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[Christine Brooks](#) • November 6, 2016 at 03:18 pm

Diane Calvert - this is one man's opinion I think you were a little harsh as you are entitled to your opinion so is this man. Perhaps rather than insulting and antagonizing him you could find a way to

deliver your comments showing respect for his thoughts and proving incidence where his thinking may be misguided.

[William Innes](#) • November 6, 2016 at 06:58 pm

It seems to me that this discussion is a classic case of "absurdum in extremis". There is no absolute right in unlimited immigration, or in no immigration. Canadian governments have in general done a pretty good job in recognizing the benefits of immigration while at the same time recognizing that immigration is only successful if it occurs in type and numbers which can be assimilated into the communities in which they settle. Obviously the greater the gap between the immigrant and the society into which they enter, the greater will be the integration challenge. Despite this the track record seems to me to be that Canada is able to assimilate more immigrants than we have typically assumed. At the same time assimilation of numbers like have taken place in Germany would be courting a severe negative reaction in Canadian . What we need is continued mutual accommodation which balances the risks with the rewards!

• Post Awarded 5 DR

[Trent Team \(Discussion Moderator\)](#) • November 7, 2016 at 12:38 pm

*Diane Calvert wrote on November 6:*

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Hi Diane, we'd like to underscore Christine's comment below, and the fact that this community is based on supporting discussions where all opinions are valid. Based on the important topics that are discussed, we expect opposing views and believe that this leads to worthwhile discussion when carried out in a respectful environment. Please see our Discussion Etiquette for more details.

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • November 7, 2016 at 04:59 pm

RESPECT of all opinions (expressed in this discussion) is a necessary condition in a democratic environment which protects free speech, as in our Canadian context in general, and is the mantra of CANADIAN DIFFERENCE which we are following in our discussions. Having said that we need to remember that democracy and free speech themselves are not abstract notions or free-floating concepts. Instead, they are limited by the respect for the Difference and DIVERSITY which Canada is made up of and stands for. Canada is not the US which has been built on the "melting pot": an ideology that has miserably failed, as no ethnic/national community has ever melted (e.g., native, Hispanics, African Americans... etc.,). Integration rather than assimilation is what we, Canadians should be looking for. Assimilation is about erasure of the other: erasing the identity, ethnicity, culture and heritage of Canadian immigrants: traits which have historically enriched Canada rather than impoverishing it. Not only "Muslims do not Assimilate", but Christians (Italians, Portuguese, Greeks) and non-Christians (e.g., Chinese, Indians... etc., ) and Jews have never melted/assimilated either. To realize what is meant here, I

suggest Canadians go and visit China Town, Danforth Street, College Street or Eglinton West to see and live the "different cultural experiences" of the various ethnic/cultural communities there. These people have served their Canada and made it interesting for many generations. We should never forget that, except for the aboriginal/native peoples, all of us Canadians, regardless of when we migrated/immigrated are IMMIGRANTS. Another important point to make here about "humanitarianism". Let's remember, humanity and "our humanitarian values" cannot be selective! To extend our "humanitarian obligations" to a selective religion (Christianity), while seems like an invitation for some refugees to join -to which no one objects- is not just problematic but unfortunately is a form of racial discrimination against Muslims and an implicit - if not explicit - Islamophobia and hatred to Islam and Muslims. We need to be very careful with names, words and forms of expressions we use when dealing with Canadian diversity!

[Heather Nicol](#) • November 10, 2016 at 01:00 pm

I would like to heartily agree with Bill and Nahla. I would also like to suggest that there is as much diversity between people of any one religion or ethnic group as there is between people of different religions, races and ethnicities. And then there is the question of integration. What is it that we are supposed to be assimilating to? I don't think there is one version of a "Canadian" but many. It seems to me that integration is a bit of a moving target...very much depended upon context, age, location etc. Building capacity through thoughtful and positive reflections on how, where and when accommodation has been successful is the first step in building a successful society- or rather, societies of Canadians.

[Peter Boys](#) • November 12, 2016 at 06:04 pm

As a English immigrant to Canada in 1970 at the age of 22 with a trade and Diploma in Agricultural Engineering, I came here with \$350, a box of tools and ambition. I have never looked back and spent 27 years in various positions in the farm equipment business, now the last 19 as a financial advisor to farm and small business families in Central Alberta. Canada is a country of immigrants, the vast majority like me who have come here for a better life for themselves and their families. I have no specific issue with Muslims other than in order to ensure our national safety and security; that we have a vetting program to ensure that those who wish to come here are not criminals or a potential Jihadist threat. Every sovereign country has the right to sufficiently vet those who may pose a potential threat to their security, I came here with the expectation that I would adapt to Canadian standards and cultural norms and accepting the tenants of Common Law in Alberta where I chose to settle. There is no place here for Sharia Law and any who expect this may as well stay where this is accepted, along with all the other barbaric cultural beliefs such as stoning, genital mutilation, subjugation of women, honour killings, etc. For all Muslims who wish to come here, work hard, raise a family and build a life and integrate into our great country - I say welcome to you and enjoy the boundless freedom and rewards that myself and my family have enjoyed living here!

• Post Awarded 10 DR

[Geoff Keelan](#) • November 16, 2016 at 11:37 am

I think that mutual accommodation is possible. In the case of Syrian refugees, Canada has chosen to accept families over single males. This, along with stringent security screening, has allowed Canada to accept thousands of new Canadians while also allaying concerns about allowing security risks to enter the country - generally, single males are considered "more dangerous" than families.

As many here have already raised, there are concerns from many Canadians about whether Muslims can integrate into our culture. I think this too requires mutual accommodation. Here in Waterloo Region in southern Ontario, we have welcomed over 1200 refugees and we also have [an incredible support network](#) guided by the Waterloo Region Syrian Refugee Resettlement Preparedness Plan. They (as well as other research) have identified two key issues that determine the success or failure of refugee integration: employment and a sense of belonging. They are interconnected issues - finding employment as a new Canadian can be difficult, and if you encounter obstacles towards getting it, you rightfully feel as if you don't belong. If new Canadians cannot provide for their families or do not feel as if they belong, then often they feel isolated and disconnected from the rest of Canadian society - the very proof that some offer as the failure of integration.

So there is a burden on us to welcome refugees, to help them acclimatize to a new culture and new life in our communities. It benefits everyone to make them feel like they belong – in our schools, in our workplaces, and in our neighbourhoods. This mutual accommodation leads to successful integration and, in turn, helps ensure that our security is not threatened.

- Post Awarded 10 DR

[Nahla Abdo](#) (Subject Matter Expert) • November 20, 2016 at 12:42 pm

Wise choice of words Geoff: "mutual accommodation leads to successful integration and, in turn, helps ensure that our security is not threatened". Mutual accommodation is an expression of mutual respect of diverse religions, cultures, traditions and ways of life. The "radicalization" of one Christian white man could be as harmful as the "radicalization" of a Muslim man. Radicalization, we must remember is a form of patriarchal power, based on power ideology. How do we explain the disappearance of over 100 aboriginal women in Canada? Who kidnapped, killed, or eliminated these women? How do we explain this phenomenon which is at the core of Canadian security? I doubt Muslims are involved here, yet this has been the most chilling security breach in Canadian recent history! Let's keep our eyes and ears open not to much of the media which unfortunately is largely ignorant and deceptive, but to reality within and around us. Let's remember the security we need is the security that unites us and not the security that divides us. Canadian security should be for all Canadians, it should be inclusionary and not exclusionary!

[Sheena France](#) • November 28, 2016 at 10:45 am

*Diane Calvert wrote on November 6:*

*This is nonsense and I think you need to back it up with facts. Just show me how this hate speech has helped the USA during this past election. They have a better chance of getting killed by their toddler shooting them with a misplaced gun. In Canada the few incidents we have had have been home grown. Name one negative incident since the 31K refugees came to Canada in December. Unless you are first Nations your family came from somewhere else. Canada is a nation of immigrants. We need the diversity, we need the population with our aging population. What is wrong with you? When did you get so mean and selfish. Those people need our help much like the jews did under the NAZIs. Would you have denied them too? Shame on you. Are you even Canadian?*

Important to remember we Canadians did not assimilate to our indigenous people, we murdered, assimilated or outright cast them out... That is what many of us, including our indigenous communities are concerned about. Also, it is not hate speech to voice one's opinion in a forum; it is however unacceptable to personally attack someone who posts their opinion. Your post is more "Trump-ish" and

judgmental of this person's viewpoint than Trump is of women and minorities and does NOT promote any kind of discussion from dissenting views. Have a nice day from a Canadian who believes in free speech without shaming or hateful statements about a stranger's deeply held beliefs. Actually thought this forum might want truthful concerns, apparently, you are using it as propaganda tool; unfortunate when people distort truths and shout down dissenters in the name of free speech and sharing. ./ I would like the moderators' thoughts on this please.

[Trent Team \(Discussion Moderator\)](#) • November 28, 2016 at 10:47 am

*Sheena France wrote on November 28:*

*Important to remember we Canadians did not assimilate to our indigenous people, we murdered, assimilated or outright cast them out... That is what many of us, including our indigenous communities are concerned about. Also, it is not hate speech to voice one's opinion in a forum; it is however unacceptable to personally attack someone who posts their opinion. Your post is more "Trump-ish" and judgmental of this person's viewpoint than Trump is of women and minorities and does NOT promote any kind of discussion from dissenting views. Have a nice day from a Canadian who believes in free speech without shaming or hateful statements about a stranger's deeply held beliefs. Actually thought this forum might want truthful concerns, apparently, you are using it as propaganda tool; unfortunate when people distort truths and shout down dissenters in the name of free speech and sharing. ./ I would like the moderators' thoughts on this please.*

Hi Sheena,

The Trent Team did review this post at the time and decided that as another member had replied, we would leave the post to show how other members reacted instead of asking for the post to be edited - we also provided a response echoing the Christine's response. We monitor the discussions based on the published etiquette and do take action when required.

The Trent Team