

TERRORISM AND ISLAM

Exploding the Myths

**15 Questions
15 Straight Answers**



*Terrorism has affected many nations over the years. There has been a tendency in recent times for the media to link it with 'militant Islam'. This association has haunted ordinary Muslims causing them untold misery. Many Muslims are now caught in the middle. They feel they have to make a choice between extremist Muslims and very secular standpoints. Some Muslims become apologetic about their religion and begin to judge it through value systems that are alien to the faith. Others go to another extreme and allow their hate and frustration to taint their Islamic principles. **But there is a third alternative: Islam correctly understood.** Islam pure, simple and without prejudice. This leaflet has been produced by the Islamic Society of Britain & The Young Muslims UK to explode the myths surrounding this issue, and to clarify the correct Islamic (and mainstream) position, for both Muslims and the general public.*

1. What is terrorism?

Chambers English Dictionary defines "terrorism" as *the systematic use of violence and intimidation to achieve some goal*. In practice, the word is rarely applied neutrally, and is often used to exploit. Indeed, one nation's 'terrorist' may well be another's 'freedom fighter'. For example, to many in the UK, the IRA are nothing but a bunch of terrorists whereas for many in the US they are 'freedom fighters'; the French Resistance in the Second World War under General de Gaulle carried out 'terrorist' attacks on the German-backed Vicky Regime, but they were supported by the Allies; for years Iraq's Saddam Hussain - supported by the US - had committed atrocities against Iran, but he was only labelled a 'terrorist' when he invaded oil-rich Kuwait; the Taliban and before them the Mujahideen of Afghanistan were supported by the US, who then ditched them in order to aid the Northern Alliance announcing their former allies were "harbouring terrorism".

In our world today, astonishingly, if a government terrorises a minority and subjects them to genocide or gross abuses of human rights, as for example the Yugoslav army did in Bosnia, it is not termed terrorism. But, when ordinary citizens fight an army to defend their lives or free their land from occupation, as in Palestine, they are labelled terrorists. **This selective use of the word is not only unfortunate, it is also unhelpful because it stands in the way of understanding and stopping terrorism.**



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2. What does Islam say about terrorism?

Islamically, terrorism is the slaughter or terrorising of the innocent. As such it is categorically forbidden, since it is in direct opposite of *Islam*, a name that is derived from the Arabic word *Slma* - one meaning of which is *Peace*. No other faith carries the meaning of peace within its name. The word *Muslim* can be given the meaning *One who spreads peace*. Such is its importance that across the Muslim continents people are always greeting each other with the words of *Salam*: "Peace on you". Notice the similarity between the words *Islam* and *Salam*.

The blessed Prophet, may peace be upon him (pbuh), said: *"In the name of One in whose Hand is my soul, you will not enter Heaven until you believe, and you will not believe until you love one another. Shall I tell you what will lead you to love one another? Spread peace (salam) among yourselves"*.

an authentic statement recorded in Arabic in the collection of Muslim

Islam takes very seriously the killing of even one innocent person, whatever the situation. In fact the sentence for murder under the Islamic legal system (or *Shariah*) after a properly conducted trial in legitimate courts, can be the death penalty. This is because **life is absolutely sacred - a gift granted by God - and no one has the right to take it except God**.

"..if anyone slays a human being, unless it be (in legalised punishment) for murder or for spreading corruption on earth, it shall be as though that person had slain the whole of humanity; whereas, if anyone saves a life, it shall be as though one had saved the lives of all humanity." from the Qur'an at 5: 32

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) taught: *"A believer remains within the scope of their religion as long as he or she does not kill another person illegally"*. an authentic statement recorded in Arabic in the collection of Bukhari

3. What does Jihad mean?

Jihad is an Arabic word that means literally a struggle.

Islamically, the word stands for all forms of striving and struggle done to enjoin good and remove harm for the sake of God (and not for one's personal ego or glory). It requires knowing the acts that God loves, and also what God dislikes. The aim or purpose of jihad is **Justice**. Anyone striving to remove injustices in society, or promote neighbourliness, or

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eradicate drugs, or provide for the homeless, or combat crime, or even remove litter from the street, can be in a state of Jihad. This also applies to a struggle within oneself, against one's negative influences and temptations. Struggling against the hate or jealousy or pride inside oneself is Jihad. **Correct Jihad therefore requires one to possess, deep down inside, honesty, integrity and courage.**

The blessed Prophet (pbuh) taught: *"The best Jihad is saying a word of truth in the court of a tyrant ruler"*.^{an authentic statement recorded in Arabic in the col-}

lection of Abu Dawud

Jihad can be carried out through writing, speech, lobbying or picketing. Jihad can also be performed 'though the Qur'an' (Muslim scripture), by inviting people to the Islamic faith through living and sharing the teachings of the Qur'an.

4. Can Jihad also mean an armed struggle?

Yes. Since jihad covers all forms of striving for the benefit of our world, Islam recognises that justice may involve a physical or even an armed struggle, when absolutely necessary. Far from the popular misconception however, fighting is not the norm for jihad, but an exception. This is evident from the life of the blessed Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), who engaged in jihad from the moment of the first revelation in the city of Makka. This jihad was a struggle between belief in one God, who loves justice, and a society that worshipped false gods and engaged in many injustices: the abuse of slaves and women, baby girls being buried alive, and economic oppression to name a few. For 13 years, which is a long time, the Prophet engaged in jihad without it involving any fighting. Then, when homes were later looted and armies marched on civilians, there was no other option for the Muslim community but to defend itself, physically.

"Permission (to fight) is given to those against whom war is being wrongfully waged – and truly indeed God has the Power to help them – those who have been driven from their homelands against all right, for no other reason than their saying, 'Our Sustainer is God!' For if God had not enabled people to defend themselves against one another, Monasteries and Churches and Synagogues and Mosques, in which God's name is abundantly mentioned, would surely have been destroyed." from the Qur'an at 22: 39



Jihad covers all forms of striving for the benefit of our world

The Prophet (pbuh) understood the verses of the Qur'an better than anyone, and we know from his example that an armed struggle was only ever resorted to when there was no other alternative, and where a specific use of force was the only route to justice. This was his Sunnah, his Way.

During the period following the Prophet's demise, armies were fought only if they were attacking Muslim lands or if a leader refused to allow the message of Islam to be presented to his people. To deny a people the opportunity to weigh up for themselves the message of Islam was seen as a denial of justice and their human rights. Also, any such fight was strategic, limited and governed by strict rules at a time when the idea of any 'rules' for war simply did not exist. Sadly, many school textbooks continue to ignore the historical fact that the Islamic faith spread to places like Indonesia (the most populous Muslim country of all) and Malaysia without so much as a single soldier setting foot on the land, chiefly because the locals were impressed by the integrity and noble character of Muslim merchants.

Like most civilised nations in the world, **Islam does not forbid the use of force as a last resort to bring about the greater good or peace.** Every country believes in having an army. Why? To keep the peace and offer protection and security to its people. The same is true in Islam. It states that the use of force must be a last recourse and confines it within strict parameters laid down in Divine Law.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) set strict rules for war. Muslims cannot dishonour a treaty. Cannot mutilate the dead. Cannot kill women. Cannot kill children. Cannot kill the old. Cannot kill those without weapons. Cannot kill those engaged in worship (priests, rabbis etc). Cannot cut down trees. Cannot burn crops. Cannot poison the wells of enemies (the use of chemical weapons). And only those who come at Muslims can be killed. In time these very rules were to shape a body of customary laws, to develop into what we know today as International Law.

The Prophet (pbuh) came across the body of a dead woman after a battle and rebuked the Muslims saying: *"She wasn't among the ones who fought!"* an authentic statement recorded in Arabic in the collection of Abu Dawud

He also said: *"One who has no compassion for our little ones and does*

Prophet Muhammad understood the verses of the Qur'an better than anyone



not acknowledge the honour due to our elders is not one of us". an authentic statement

recorded in Arabic in the collection of Abu Dawud

The armed struggle one has to initiate the moment one is invaded or occupied by a foreign force is also a form of jihad. It is protection of one's home and land, one's laws and values. An example of this today is the struggle by the people of Palestine against the invasion of Zionists who first began the brutal occupation of Palestinian lands in the 1940s. But even these struggles to get back homes and land have to follow the stringent principles outlined.

"And fight in the way of God those who fight you, but do not transgress the limits. Truly God does not like the transgressors."

from the Qur'an at 2: 190

5. Does Islam allow 'suicide bombing'?

No. Islam does not allow suicide in any shape or form. As in Christianity, it is a major sin. Any person therefore who intends to commit suicide, whether by carrying bombs or jumping off a building, has violated the Islamic duty of being a guardian and trustee of one's own life. Muslims believe that life is precious and every difficulty can be overcome by faith, love, and will. Difficulties are part of the test of life.

Suicide therefore is never an option for any Muslim, let alone for the Muslim engaged in armed struggle against oppression.

Muslim fighters going into battle against heavy odds, must have a chance, no matter how remote, of returning from the battle.

The principles in essence are identical to some brave person during the Second World War charging into the thick of battle, determined to bring down as many of the enemy soldiers as possible, before being shot dead. Such a person would be hailed a hero and martyr, who laid down his life for 'King and country'.

Every civilisation has valued the person who has sacrificed his or her life for a higher cause. It is considered the height of morality to be prepared to risk your life to safeguard others. This is not just at times of war. Every day the police, the fire service and others place their lives at risk for the safety of others. In times of danger people in the armed forces also risk



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their lives so that we can sleep in peace. It is in this context that Islam grants a noble status to a *Shaheed* or Martyr.

6. If someone misguidedly killed innocent civilians believing it was correct, would they go to Heaven?

There are many misguided people in the world today. There always have been. Hitler and many Germans felt that the white Aryan race was superior to all and began a genocide of others. David Koresh's so-called Davidian Christian cult members committed suicide as ordered because they believed he was the Messiah. **The Muslim population is no different to others and has its share of misguided people.** However it is a Muslim's duty to correct misguidance, and to seek clarification.

Muslims believe that after death we will all be resurrected. On the Day of Judgement, everyone will stand before God to answer for what they believed and did on Earth. No one will enter Heaven or Hell without this 'trial'. God is The Judge, The Compassionate, and The Master of the Day of Judgement. If someone did something wrong but with good intention, they too will be judged. **God will ensure justice will prevail, so much so that according to the blessed Prophet (pbuh), even a sheep will take its dues for the harm inflicted to it by others.** The murdered will then most certainly take their dues from their murderers. But the matter is in God's domain.

Although we may have our suspicions, it would be a little arrogant and presumptuous of us to declare that a particular individual is definitely going to Heaven. Similarly however evil a person has been, we are simply not the ones to decide that they are definitely going to Hell. We can only say what Muslim scholars have always said, "God knows best". For God is The All-Knowing, The Most Just, The Most Wise, and on that Day no one, victim or aggressor, will be wronged in the least.

7. Isn't the death of innocent people inevitable in any war?

Muslims have to be extremely careful not to take innocent life. It is true innocent lives may be lost in wars, but it must not be by design. Our rules of warfare are very strict and clear. Many scholars of Islam have forbidden the use of nuclear weapons, on the grounds that they do not differentiate enemy soldiers from civilians. One innocent person targeted and killed would bestow on the perpetrator the severe crime of murder. Wars

Millions in the West are sick of the double standards of their own governments



can only be conducted with the strict rules in place and every Muslim, including a soldier in combat, must question their own conscience for they will be asked about it on the Day of Judgement. **If we are to be questioned about every word we utter, imagine how will it be for a life we take?**

“Whenever the Messenger of God appointed a commander over an army.. he told him to remain conscious of God Almighty in his inward self” reported by Buraydah and recorded in the collection of Muslim

The Prophet (pbuh) was asked, *“O Prophet of God! Is it true that there is reward for us in the good treatment of animals?”*. *“Yes,” he replied, “in the kind treatment of every..being there is a reward for you”*. an authentic statement recorded in Arabic in the collection of Ahmed

8. Would it be OK in Islam if only non-Muslims die in an attack?

No. This is disgusting and very dangerous thinking. **All human beings are the creation of God.** It is God who has given life to all of us, and as such only He has the right to take it. All humans are the descendants - children - of Adam. A life is a life in Islam irrespective of religion or race.

The Prophet (pbuh) warned: *“Whoever kills a person from the dhimmi (a non-Muslim citizen at the time of the Islamic State) is not going to smell the fragrance of Heaven; a scent that one can smell a distance of 70 years from Heaven”*.

an authentic statement recorded in Arabic in the collection of Bukhari

One day Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) stood up out of respect at a funeral procession, and upon being told that it was for a Jew, he replied: *“Isn't he a human being?”* an authentic statement recorded in Arabic in the collection of

Bukhari

9. Are there any innocent Westerners? Surely they are all guilty of hating Islam?!

Extremist views breed on stereotyping people. This leads to prejudice out of ignorance, which in turn leads to hate. Just as all Muslims cannot be labelled as one homogeneous unit and put into the same pot, Muslims must also not go down the road of stereotyping others. **It is utterly wrong to blame the public for the hypocritical foreign policies of a country.** In the West there are millions who are not Muslims and who want justice to reign, are sick of the double standards of their own governments and who support truth. But the vast majority of peo-



Many scholars of Islam have forbidden the use of nuclear weapons

ple just do not know what's going on, and mostly are not bothered.

We must also remember that many views held by people in the West are due to years of Islamophobic culturing that is fuelled by selective and inaccurate media reporting. Maybe some of the fault lies with Muslims ourselves for not showing people a good example of Islam. If there are people who hate Islam then as Muslims we have a duty to demonstrate its beauty. Umar al Khattab and Khalid bin Walid, may God be pleased with them, are just two examples of people who lived during the Prophet's time and hated Muslims. They even fought against the Muslims. But when they saw Islam in its true light they became its champions.

10. **Shouldn't Muslims feel glad when 'the West' is bombed, since for years the West has killed innocent people all over the world?**

No. Murder of innocent people can never be justified. No scholar of Islam in over 1400 years has ever allowed the deliberate targeting of civilians. Innocents are innocent wherever they are. In Islam one wrong does not make another right. The Qur'an tells us to stand up for justice even against our own families. Muslims must stand up for justice against atrocities even if they have been initiated by misguided Muslim fanatics.

One must never allow extreme hate or indeed extreme love to affect our judgement.

"O you who have attained faith! Be ever steadfast in your devotion to God, bear witness to truth in all equity; and never let the hatred of anyone lead you into the sin of deviating from justice. Be just: this is closest to being God-conscious."

from the Qur'an at 5: 8

11. **Would it be all right if attacks were only on military installations?**

It depends. When fighting off an invasion or occupation, then not only would it be acceptable, it may well become recommended (*mandub*) or even obligatory (*fard*) to attack, according to the laws of Islam. **However, any attack across a recognised border without a legitimate Muslim state directive is forbidden and illegal under Islamic law.** The blessed Prophet (pbuh) never secretly attacked another tribe, and, when pushed to it, he always engaged the armed enemy and

One day Prophet Muhammad stood up out of respect at the funeral procession for a Jew



never civilians. This is his *Sunnah*, his Way.

12. Many Western states claim they are trying to bring greater peace, justice and democracy on Earth and make it a place free of terrorism. Shouldn't Muslims support this?

Not automatically. Most Western powers have no moral high ground to be the forces to stamp out terrorism. Actions speak louder than words. The bitter truth is most Western governments have little or no real interest in democracy, freedom or justice, and are only concerned with self-interest. One can continue to treat symptoms, but in order to eradicate terrorists, it is causes of terrorism that must be tackled, like double standard foreign policies, like a grossly unfair allocation of the earth's resources, like destruction by design of another people or their culture.

Judging by their actions, most Western governments would fall within the definition of terrorist themselves:

- ▶ USA atomic bombing of Hiroshima - 61,443 killed of which 20,000 were children, followed by Nagasaki - 23,753 killed
- ▶ British terror bombing of Dresden - 25,000 killed
- ▶ French massacres of Algerians - an estimated 1.5 million were killed before independence was granted
- ▶ USA Napalm attacks on villages and forests in Vietnam
- ▶ Russian plundering of Afghanistan - 1.5 million killed
- ▶ USA violation of airspace and bombing of Libya
- ▶ USA bombing of a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan
- ▶ Russian invasion of Chechnya - 70,000 killed
- ▶ Western support for violent military coups in both Algeria and El Salvador, overturning the democratic process
- ▶ Western annihilation of Iraq in 1991, including its infrastructure (every motorway, bridge, factory, telecommunication centre etc.) - immediately followed by sanctions causing the death of 500,000 children and over 1 million people according to the UN - after which we see the USA comprehensively destroy Iraq again, against the will of the international community



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- ▶ Western (especially US) aiding of Zionist Israeli atrocities in Palestine since 1940
- ▶ Support given to and harbouring ruthless dictatorships, mostly in the Muslim world, with known human rights abuses

Certain Western countries must come out on top as the supreme state 'terrorists' just in terms of sheer numbers of innocent civilians who have died as a result of terrible acts. **Which is worse: A secret terrorist group run by a few individuals, or a state enabling the killings of thousands of civilians with its state support and weapon supplies?**

Yes, as Muslims we should support freedom of people from the shackles of dictatorships. Yes, we should support proper measures against terrorism. But, we do not support the double standards being demonstrated on a daily basis.

13. **Shouldn't Muslim countries put terrorists on trial?**

Many Muslim countries today are despotic dictatorships that continually torture, imprison and kill their own citizens. They have passed various laws banning elections, banning and torturing opposition (including Islamic) groups, banning the Islamic headdress for women etc. Western governments unfortunately prop up nearly all these dictatorships, whose unjust rule plays its part in giving birth to pockets of frantic individuals. These Muslim rulers terrorise themselves and so are not exactly the right people to smash terrorism.

14. **If our non-Muslim country, Britain, is attacking a Muslim land, what should Muslims living here do?**

The mighty attacks by USA and Britain on Iraq during the 1980s and 1990s, the continuous air raids and the far reaching economic sanctions proved one thing. All these actions together did not dislodge the ruthless (and anti-Islamic) dictator Saddam Hussain - created through US sponsorship - who continued to terrorise his people for a further 12 years. Instead, the actions have hurt badly innocents on the ground. According to the UN 10,000 children died every month and over half a million children have died as a consequence. Powerful Western nations must learn that their games cannot be played in other peoples' back yards causing more suffering and giving rise to desperate

No scholar of Islam has ever allowed the deliberate targeting of civilians



and frustrated individuals prone to be picked up by extremist groups. **Rather they must change their foreign policies so that their conduct is rid of its hypocrisy and shameful double standards.**

British Muslims must not condone any attacks on any lands that lead to more civilian suffering. You cannot punish a whole nation for the actions of a few. This will not solve the problem; it will create more violence sooner or later. We must do all we can legally through the powers of the countries we live in, to voice our strong condemnation of such strikes, and work hard to make the public and officials aware of the suffering that results from our doing.

Islam requires us to always be honest in any stand for justice. **Muslims living in Britain are not under occupation and, according to Islam, have accepted the law of the land by continuing to live here, so becoming citizens.** This does not mean we will blindly accept anything and everything (any more than the wider public does). What it means is that Islam requires its British followers to live obediently under domestic law in all its general good. It would be wrong and unfair (and indeed ungrateful) for us to ignore the protection and rights that the state and society at large provide us, something we can tend to take for granted. Although there are many incidents of prejudice, this is not state policy and various institutions work to reduce prejudice and discrimination. All this means there can be no armed action initiated here by Muslims since it would violate our agreement as citizens.

While the blessed Prophet (pbuh) was living in the city of Madina and was under constant attack by the Quraish tribe of Makka, he did not ask the few Muslims remaining in Makka, who were unable to leave for various reasons, to carry out insurgent attacks within the city. Indeed Islam places so much emphasis in honouring agreements that the Prophet (pbuh) turned Makkan converts to Islam back from Madina and sent them back to the opposition even though they would face hardship, only because he had agreed with the Quraish tribe to do so under the rather one-sided 'Treaty of Hudaibiyah'.

It is the duty of all Muslims to stamp out the erroneous beliefs that some frustrated Muslims have adopted. These extremist ideas that state innocent civilians can be legitimate targets for



Islam requires its British followers to live obediently under domestic law in all its general good

attack have no support among scholarly circles, and never did. **We have to educate everybody about the truth of Islam, and the extremely beautiful example of the blessed Prophet (pbuh): his love for others, his warmth, his kindness in the face of horrible attacks on him, his smiles, his patience when he was routinely mocked and spat upon etc.** This is what won the hearts of people.

15. I'm just one individual. What can I do?

This is a critical time for *du'a* - prayer and supplication. There is no power bilior aty except through God. Remember, He is our protector and He is in control. Pray to God to have mercy on the families of the suffering everywhere, and to help us carry out His mission.

Take care of your family, and yourself. The majority of people in this peaceful country realise that Islam condemns terrorism, but there are small minorities who attack Muslims and mosques to further their propaganda. Be aware and take appropriate safety measures. It is a good idea to log all verbal or physical attacks with the Muslim Council of Britain (www.mcb.org.uk) and to report all incidents to the police, however small. Lobby and challenge your MPs on all issues unjust or unfair (and don't forget to congratulate deserving ones too). The notion, held by a few, that British Muslims are to somehow detach themselves from 'the system', is a notion alien to Islam. Such thinking is borne out of frustration and hate rather than an understanding of Islamic principles.

Get involved. Talk to your neighbours, colleagues and friends about the situation. Explain the real Islamic position in a good manner and without being overbearing. **You must show sympathy for whoever happens to be the victim, whether Muslim or not.**

Many hands make light work, so join in with a few projects by organisations that are genuinely striving for justice in our world. Also, join the work of a Muslim organisation that best embodies for you the beautiful teachings of the blessed Prophet. Take inspiration from that strong and dedicated team of men and women that surrounded him. If you want to join the Islamic Society of Britain (or its youth section The Young Muslims UK) complete the attached Membership Form or visit

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www.isb.org.uk. **Sometimes we feel desperate for a quick-fix solution to it all, and whilst such feelings are understandable, we ought to understand that there are no quick fixes.** As Muslims, we believe that it is God who will grant justice in this world (and His blessings on us in the next) if we but put into practice the teachings of the Qur'an and the *Sunnah* of God's Messenger.

Stay informed, but keep a healthy balance on the usage of your time. Balance your time spent on news publications and journals with a regular study of the Qur'an. Do write or phone to complain if a news report appears biased or inaccurate (which it may well be). State your reasoned point concisely and clearly, without coming across as emotional. It all counts. The BBC for instance are a publically funded body obliged to make an official inquiry if more than 10 complaints (including calls and e-mails) are received on a single issue. Remember that truth is the first casualty of war.

Hope, in God, is truly powerful and we can find comfort in this. When you really think about the Day of Judgement - the most important test of all - God is not going to ask if we 'changed the world'. We will be asked, if we did whatever we could, with whatever we had, wherever we were; and was it in the service of God?

You can do a lot. There is much to learn and much to be done if we are to eradicate the misinformation out there. We have to share our beautiful Islam with the British public, or else we will have played our part in allowing it to be hijacked, and we will have to look on painfully as the teachings of Islam are distorted before our very eyes. Help explode the myths.

Selected Quotes

Taken from statements made days after September 11th.

"No doubt, aggression against innocent people is a grave sin and a heinous crime, irrespective of the victim's religion, country, or race..The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, is also reported to have warned us that a person was qualified to enter Hell because of a cat they locked up (deliberately) to die. If such is the ruling applied in protecting animals, no doubt, aggression against human beings, a fortiori, deserves greater protection, for human beings are honoured by God Almighty



Balance time spent on news publications with a regular study of the Qur'an

and are His ambassadors on earth.”

Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi Scholar of Islam (*quite possibly the foremost scholar of Islam today*)

“...It followed an Israeli invasion of Lebanon - designed to drive the PLO out of the country and given the green light by the then US Secretary of State, Alexander Haig - which cost the lives of 17,500 Lebanese and Palestinians, almost all of them civilians. That's probably three times the death toll in the World Trade Centre. Yet I do not remember any vigils or memorial services or candle-lighting in America or the West for the innocent dead of Lebanon; I don't recall any stirring speeches about democracy or liberty.”

Robert Fisk The Independent

“When atrocities are committed by Western bombing raids, there are no sharp images bombarding our TV sets and shots of people screaming, of crying mothers, of blood splattered civilians, of orphaned children. We don't hear the last goodbyes of the dying, the statements of love etc. But this doesn't mean that their deaths are any less horrible, or any less real. God is the Supreme Creator and He created life equally valuable, irrespective of your birthplace or colour, caste or creed. That surely we must all accept.”

Dr. Munir Ahmed President, Islamic Society of Britain

“Far from being the terrorists of the world, the Islamic peoples have been its victims - that is, the victims of American fundamentalism, whose power, in all its forms, military, strategic and economic, is the greatest source of terrorism on earth. This fact is largely censored from the western media. That Tony Blair, whose government sells lethal weapons to Israel and has sprayed Iraq and Yugoslavia with cluster bombs..and was the greatest arms supplier to the genocidists in Indonesia, can be taken seriously when he now speaks about the "shame" of the "new evil of mass terrorism" says much about the censorship of our collective sense of how the world is managed.. Alas, it is no comfort to the families of the thousands of ordinary Americans who have died so terribly that the perpetrators of their suffering may be the product of western policies.

John Pilger The New Statesman

Yes, we should support proper measures against terrorism



Islamic Society of Britain

The Islamic Society of Britain is an established national organisation with local branches throughout the UK. It brings together Muslims of every background who see Britain as their society and home, a home that has been destined by God.

The Young Muslims UK is its youth section and has long earned a reputation as a trusted, dynamic and pioneering organisation in its own right.

The Islamic Society of Britain wants to connect British society with God, building on all good that already exists. The Society wants to change the perception of Islam as something eastern or alien to British society, and seeks to challenge head-on misconceptions in European thought that have grown like weeds. A long road lies ahead and there are no shortcuts - Muslims must share the message of God and His Messenger in a structured manner that today's Britain can relate to and understand. But many hands make light work and we urge concerned Muslims to join in our work. For a membership form or information about our work contact your local branch or our Central Office.

Your local branch: