



THE FOR BRITAIN MOVEMENT

Position Statement on Islam

Introduction

1. Although Islam has for centuries been hugely important in shaping world events, most non-Muslims in the UK know surprisingly little about it. The life of Mohammed has never been dramatised for British television or cinemas; documentaries on the teachings of Islam are rare; commentary by politicians and media prefer vague and deferential platitudes to serious analysis. Religious education in schools focusses on mostly harmless rituals such as fasting and pilgrimage and downplays the role of violence in Mohammed's rise to power.

Since the religious tumult of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Britain has tended towards religious moderation and tolerance. Most people show little interest in religion other than any faith that they may themselves may have. As a consequence of this lack of curiosity, most British people are largely unaware of the grave and growing danger posed by the growth in influence of Islamic values in the UK.

What is Islam?

2. The classic credo of Islam is contained in a form of words known as the *shahada*:

'There is no god but God and Mohammed is His prophet'.

Mohammed is generally held to have lived in Arabia between 570 and 632.¹ From the age of forty he declared that he was receiving messages from God via the Angel Jabril (an Arab form of the name Gabriel). These revelations were written down by his companions and form the Quran. The Quran is phrased as the voice of God speaking to Mohammed. The Quran also states that Mohammed is, in God's words, 'a beautiful example' for others to imitate.

As a consequence, it is generally held that to be an orthodox Muslim is to believe:

- ❖ that the Quran is the direct word of God that must be obeyed; and
- ❖ that in applying the Quran Muslims are bound to follow Mohammed's example in so far as it can be discerned from the historical record.

After twelve years of preaching peacefully in Mecca, Mohammed is said to have announced two verses giving his followers permission to fight those Meccans who rejected his message.

Mohammed then moved to the town of Yathrib/Medina (622), a migration known as the Hijrah, and from there he spent ten years in conflict with the Meccans, attacking their caravans, allies and trading partners, and engaging with them in three major military confrontations. Eventually, in 630, Mecca surrendered to Mohammed whose absolute rule as God's Messenger on earth became unchallenged in Arabia.

¹ Increasingly historians are challenging the basic facts of Islam. They point out the complete lack of Islamic documents or references to Islam in non-Islamic sources in the sixty years that are said to have followed the death of Mohammed despite the conquest by Arab armies of such centres of learning as Damascus, Jerusalem and Alexandria. They also point to the orientation of all mosques built until 725AD towards Petra, rather than Mecca and the complete absence of Mecca in any historical record until 741AD.

The Quran

3. The Quran contains variations of stories from Jewish scriptures, the New Testament and from Arabic folklore. After Mohammed moved to Medina the verses he announced as having been revealed by God set out specific laws dictating how God was instructing the community of his followers to live (the *sharia*).

Many of these laws are inconsistent with the traditional British values of liberty, tolerance, and humane concern for others. They include:

- rules concerning the ownership of slaves and a statement that '*slavery is a blessing from God*'²
- the grant of permission - stated no less than four times - for Muslim men to have sex with '*those whom their right hand possesses*' (usually interpreted as personal slaves or captives taken as the spoils of war)³;
- a system of marriage and inheritance laws in which women consistently receive inferior rights to men, including a Muslim man's right to have up to four wives whom he may divorce at will and strike for disobedience; and detailed rules specifying that a woman should receive half the inheritance of her brothers and her testimony either be disregarded or counted as half that of a man,⁴
- provisions for the divorce (and by necessary implication the marriage) of girls who have not yet had their first period⁵;
- the telling of a story in which a servant of God killed a boy to prevent him falling into disbelief and thereby bringing dishonour on his parents⁶; and
- laws severely restricting sexual freedom including the strong condemnation of homosexuality.⁷

The Quran supports its instructions with graphic depictions of the sensual, including for men sexual pleasures of paradise awaiting those who obey its instructions and torments of hell to be suffered by those who disbelieve. It also prescribed sanctions for breaching these laws here on earth, that Muslims are bound to apply if possible to do so. These invariably consist of severe physical punishments and include whipping, the amputation of limbs, beheading, confinement until death and crucifixion.⁸

² 16.71.

³ 4.24; 23.1-7; 33.50 and 70.29-30.

⁴ 4.3; 2.228; 4.34; 4.11 and 4.176.

⁵ 65.4-5.

⁶ 18.65-82.

⁷ Sentences for fornication/adultery: 4.15-6 (confinement until death) and 24.2-4 (whipping). Condemnation of homosexuality: 7.80-84; 26.160-172; 27.54-58 and 29.28.

⁸ 4.15; 5.32-33; 5.38 and 24.2-4.

4. The Quran describes those who disbelieve its message as *'the worst of creatures'* and *'further astray than cattle'* and advises Muslims - eight times - not to take disbelievers as friends/allies and - twice - to operate a double standard: to *'be harsh to disbelievers, merciful to one another'*⁹

Mohammed announced well over a hundred and fifty instructions from God to his followers that they should support him in his conflict (*jihad*) first with the Meccans and their trading partners, then, following his conquest of Mecca, in other campaigns throughout Arabia and beyond. Several reasons are offered for the call to violent *jihad*. It is explained as retribution against the Meccans for their rejection of Mohammed; a test for the believers; a demonstration of God's power; or the promise of booty including the enslavement of their enemies as a reward from God. However, by far the most commonly cited justification for *jihad* is that unbelievers, by rejecting Mohammed, have opposed God.¹⁰

Mohammed

5. The orthodox account of the life of Mohammed, as unquestioningly accepted by Muslims over the past fourteen centuries depict him engaging in:
 - robbery of Meccan caravans and raids on tribes that had shown him no ill-will;
 - owning and selling slaves and enslaving people who had until then been free;
 - authorising his fighters to rape their female captives;
 - torturing prisoners;
 - ordering the killing of poets and singers who had mocked him;
 - ordering the stoning to death of adulterers;
 - on one occasion, massacring all the several hundred men of a Jewish tribe, the Banu Qurayza after they had surrendered to him, and enslaving and selling their widows and children.
6. Mohammed had announced that God had granted him alone permission to have more than four wives, and he had ten at the time of his death. Amongst these were Aisha, whom he had married when she was just six years old and taken into his house when she was nine; and two widows (Safiya and Juwariyah) whose husbands he had killed. A further such widowed prisoner (Rayanna) refused to undergo a ceremony of marriage to Mohammed and was kept by him as a slave.

⁹ *'Worst of creatures'*: 8.55, 98.6; *'Further astray than cattle'*: 7.179; *'Not to take unbelievers as friends'*: 3.28; 8.72-3; 4.88-9; 4.139; 4.144; 5.51-2; 5.57; 60.1-4 and 80-1; and double standard for believers/disbelievers: 5.54 and 48.29.

¹⁰ 8.13.

7. The culmination of Mohammed's rule over Arabia came a year after his conquest of Mecca when he announced verses 9.3-5 of the Quran, sometimes called the 'sword verses', ordering the killing of all pagans who remained in Mecca after four months had passed:

*"Then when the sacred months have passed, **slay the idolaters wherever you find them, capture them and besiege them and lie in wait for them at every place of ambush**".*

Monotheists such as Jews and Christians were not be obliged to convert to Islam or leave but would be required to pay tribute (*jizya*) as a sign of their submission to Islam¹¹.

8. At no point does any verse of the Quran declared following the Hijra state or imply:
- that Muslims should show any kindness towards non-Muslims;
 - that non-Muslims in general have rights that Muslims are bound to respect;
 - that women should in general be treated equally to men; nor
 - that Muslims should in general limit violence to situations where they are being attacked or fear they are about to be attacked.

There are many thousands of accounts (*hadith*) recording the words and actions of Mohammed. These include his involvement in the torture and killing of prisoners, his authorisation of mass rape by his fighters and the ordering of stoning to death for adulterers and homosexuals.

None depict Mohammed as acting with generosity, compassion or respect for a person who had not first accepted his absolute authority over them.

Islamic values

9. The unambiguous instructions of the Quran and the only accounts provided of Mohammed's life presents God's will as the building up of a community of believers (Muslims) who are instructed to wage wars of aggression against unbelievers; to enslave, rape and execute their prisoners; to celebrate male sexual domination over women and pre-pubescent girls; and to demonstrate intolerance towards human freedom in general and freedom of worship and sexual freedom in particular, all enforced with inhumane punishments.

Although the Quran mentions Jesus and other New Testament figures, it will be clear to anyone familiar with the Christian gospels that the message of the Quran is the polar opposite of Jesus's message of inclusive and unconditional charity which is the cultural foundation of British society and from which developed democracy and the rule of law. Indeed, there is no other world religion whose instructions and values are explicitly and fundamentally inconsistent with traditional British values of liberty, tolerance and compassion, in the way that Islam is.

¹¹ 9.28-30.

Muslims in the UK and the wider world

10. The Muslim population of the UK is growing rapidly, doubling approximately every thirteen years as seen from recent census returns.

Census year	Number of Muslims in the UK	Muslims as a % of UK population
1961	50,000	0.1
1971	226,000	0.5
1981	553,000	1.1
1991	950,000	1.9
2001	1.6 million	3.1
2011	2.7 million	4.8

The Pew Research Centre's report *Europe's Growing Muslim Population* published in November 2017 estimated that the UK was at that time 6.3%. Of these a third are believed to be under 15 years old.

Most Muslims in the UK live in urban areas. There are currently over ten towns or cities that have a Muslim population of between 25 and 30%. Clearly these areas will begin to turn Muslim majority within a generation. On a projection of current demographics the UK overall will be a Muslim majority country within the lifetime of people alive now.

11. Islam plays a hugely political role in all Muslim majority nations. Many such as Sudan, Saudi Arabia and the other Persian Gulf states, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia operate aspects of *sharia* law including some or all of the *sharia* punishments outlined above.

Others such as Somalia, Libya, The Lebanon, Syria and Iraq are deeply destabilised by Islamic terrorist groups.

Egypt is ruled by a military dictatorship that seized power to oust a Muslim Brotherhood government elected by its population; Turkey is nominally secular but swiftly slipping into Islamism.

There is no Muslim majority country in which its citizens enjoy a high level of personal freedom, protected by the rule of law and democracy. Many give inferior rights to women and criminalise homosexuality. Increasingly any non-Islamic places of worship is vulnerable to being attacked and their congregations persecuted.

For Britain and Islam

12. For Britain utterly rejects and condemns the teachings of Islam described above. These teachings have nothing to do with encouraging piety, spirituality or the minimisation of human suffering. Rather, the verses of the Quran, in so far as they were announced by Mohamed at all, were the invention of a late antiquity warlord to support his totalitarian rule through a value system based upon subjugation, exploitation, violence and cruelty. In many countries in the world today, applying these teachings has created hell on earth for most of the people living there, especially women, homosexuals and non-Muslims.

13. For Britain accepts that many British Muslims are, by themselves are peaceful and law abiding.

However, it sees no reason to believe that, if left alone, the Muslim population of the UK would create and adopt a reformed liberal interpretation of Islam that would supersede the violent intolerance taught in the Quran and practised by Mohammed. On the contrary, all the signs are that the Muslim population of the UK is becoming more introspective and literalist in its attitude to Islam as its numbers rise, creating alternative power structures in our towns and cities such as *sharia* councils, and foster such savage practices such as forced child 'marriages', female genital mutilation, so-called 'honour killings' and rape gangs systematically preying on non-Muslim girls. For Britain believes that to allow sensitivity over the feelings of law abiding 'moderate Muslims' to prevent criticism of the teachings of Islam would be to leave the fundamental ideological cause of these evils unchallenged.

14. For Britain defends the right of any religious person to worship as they see fit, individually or with others.

However, there is no intolerance in informing the British people what Islam teaches. Nor is there any intolerance in taking robust measures to defend our tolerant society against a doctrine of violent religious tyranny. Indeed, doing so is the essence of preserving and promoting tolerance.