

## Issues and Problems of Muslim Minorities in Europe (A Case of British Muslim Community)

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### ABSTRACT:

This piece of paper examines the existing position of Muslim minority in England with reference to their challenges, issues and problems, as well as this study reveals the solution and recommendations to solve these issues. The Muslims are one of the biggest communities of Europe in Britain. They are living and settled here since long. They have many important contributions in every field of life even the sitting Mayor of London is a Muslim. It doesn't mean they have no problem. They are facing lots of issues and discrimination in every field of life, especially they are being deprived in the field of economy. Practising Muslims face a wide variety of challenges, even they do not have enough freedom of religion, freedom to offer open prayer, build mosques, keep beard and wear traditional dress at work. Women wearing the veil caused all kinds of issues and are practically banned for certain jobs (e.g. teaching and the police). Islam has dietary requirements that can make deciding what's acceptable and not acceptable but at work all Muslim workers are not being offered Halal food. Islam is deadly against interest but in the UK the Muslims are unable to avoid themselves from it as no job is interest free. It is perceived that the Muslim minority is politically, economically and socially deprived in the UK. Thus, it's the dire need to solve the problems of the Muslim communities in all over the West especially in Britain. The analytical and critical research methodology is adopted with mix method approach in this study.

**Key Words:** Europe, British Muslim Community, Discrimination, Issues, Challenges.

### Introduction:

The Muslims started living in England about three hundred years ago. They consider England as their motherland and take part in the progress of the country as like native citizens. They are peace loving and want this country peaceful and developed for themselves and their children and for their generations yet unborn. History is itself a witness that they have cooperated a lot in the field of economic, peace, education and in politics too. Most of them have citizenship of England but in spite of these collaborations, they are being treated as guest workers from the native citizens and from government side too. After 9/11 terrorist attack, the Muslims around the world are being considered as terrorist, especially in Britain, the local population and government authorities consider Muslims as security risk for their country. The government has banned many Muslim NGOs and welfare centres by saying that they collect funds for supporting terrorist financially. The Government is launching different laws by pretending for the

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security of the citizens but the purposes of these laws proves discrimination to the Muslim minority in the country.

The religious scholars and persons who have strong impact factor in the Muslims community are being kept under observation to detect their activities. All these acts have sensitized the Muslim minority in England that really love their country. The terrorism is being patched with Islam after 9/11 and train bomb attacks in England. Islam is the religion peace and harmony and The Muslims are a peace-loving nation. These circumstances create a lot of issues for Muslim minorities in so-called multi-ethnic and secular western countries especially in UK tertiary. In addition, the increasing trend of Islamophobia after 9/11 and weak laws and uninteresting behaviour of law enforcement agencies is making this issue more severe. This paper highlights the major problems of existing the Muslim minority in UK with suitable suggestions to overcome these issues.

### **Historical Background:**

The history of Muslims settlement in England is old enough, about three hundred years ago they started to settle here and with the passage of time their population increased until Islam became the second largest religion in England after Christianity. First of all, some Yemeni fishermen came here.

"Muslims first arrived in Britain over 300 years ago. Yemeni soldiers arrived after the opening of the Suez Canal, formed some of the oldest Muslim Communities in the Port cities of London Cardiff, Liverpool and Southfields<sup>1</sup>".

The British Muslim minority has diverse racial, national and ethnic background. According to the Census of 2011:

"Three quarter of the Muslims (74 Percent) is from Asian Ethnic Background, predominantly the Pakistani (43%) and Bangladeshi (16%) Indians (8%) and other Asian (6%). Eleven Percent white ethnic group of which 4% is of white British origin and 7 Present is from other white background... 6 Percent of the Muslims are from black African origin, mainly from North and East Africa..... then are also estimated to be up to 10,000 converters to Islam in Britain"<sup>2</sup>

### **The Pew Research Centre Report 2011 manifest:**

The Muslim population in 2010 was 4.8% of the total population England was 2960000<sup>3</sup>. Total population of England according to religious division in 2011 is given below.

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Christian	33,243,175	59.3%
Muslims	2,706,066	4.8%
Hindu	816,633	1.5%
Jewish	263,346	0.5%
Buddhist	247,743	0.4%
Any of the Religion	240,530	0.4%
No religion	14,097,229	25.1%
Religion not stated	4,038,032	7.2%
All	56,075,912	100% <sup>4</sup>

The census of 2011 reveals that the Muslim population was 2706066 in England and Wales which was 1546626 in 2001. It shows increase of 74% in the Muslim population as number of 1159440 persons increased. Islam has become the second largest religion in England. According to "Pew Research Centre"<sup>5</sup> in 2050 the Muslim's population will become majority in many cities of England and the native Christians will become minority.

### Muslim Population Belongs to Different Ethnic Groups

Change of population from 2001- 2011 according to their ethnic group

<b>Muslim</b>			<b>Muslim Population Change</b>			
Ethnic Group	2001	%	2011	%	2001-2011	%
White	179,773	11.6%	2010620	7.8%	30847	2.7%
British	63042	4.1%	77272	2.9%	14230	1.2%
Irish	890	0.1%	1914	0.1%	1024	0.1%
Other White	115841	7.5%	131,434	4.9%	15593	1.3%
Mixed	64262	4.2%	102582	3.8%	38320	3.3%
White & Black Caribbean	1385	0.1%	5384	0.2%	3999	0.3%
White & Black African	10523	0.7%	15681	0.6%	5158	0.4%
White and Asian	30397	2.0%	49689	1.8%	19292	1.7%
Other Mixed	21957	1.4%	31828	1.2%	9871	0.9%
Asian	1139817	73.7%	1830560	67.6%	690743	59.6%
Indian	131662	8.5%	197161	7.3%	65499	5.6%
Pakistani	657680	42.5%	102845	38.0%	370779	32.0%
Bangladeshi	259710	16.8%	402428	14.9%	142718	12.3 %
Chinese	752	0.0%	8027	0.3%	7275	0.6%
Other Asian	90013	5.8%	194485	7.2%	104472	9.0%
All Black	106345	6.9%	272015	10.1%	165670	14.3%
Black Caribbean	4477	0.3%	7345	0.3%	1868	0.2%
Black African	96136	6.2%	207201	7.7%	111065	9.6%
Other Black	5732	0.4%	57469	2.1%	51737	4.5%
Other	56429	3.6%	290289	10.7%	2333860	20.2%
Arale	-----	-----	178195	6.6%	178195	5.4%
Any other ethnic	56429	3.6%	112094	4.1%	55665	4.8%
All	1546626		2706066		115440	<sup>6</sup>

After exploring the history of Muslims settlement in England now it is revealed that how Muslims are facing discriminated behave there. The Muslims are living here in the worst conditions than in France. Although the Muslims are living here more than three centuries and also participating in the development and progress of the country but they are not considered equal to native citizens. They have to face a lot of problems in their routine life. The Muslim community is civilized and peace loving. They cooperate with local authorities like other citizens but they have to face unequal and discriminated behaviour from public and government too. The government and the native public are unhappy with the Muslims because Islam is

spreading there very rapidly and Muslim's birth rate is higher than native public. The government and the private NGO'S are in fear that if the Muslim population and trend of embracing Islam remains constant, a time will come when the Muslims will become majority in different cities of England. They want to control the Muslim population at any price, so they have started negative propaganda against the Muslims and Islam. They say that Muslims are terrorist and extremist and Islam preaches terrorism to its followers. They want that the Muslims should not follow the teachings of Islam or they should leave the country and go back to their homeland. The British media is propagating against the Muslims and Islam, so the local population considers the Muslims a danger for the country.

### **Discrimination in Multidimensional Fields of Life:**

#### **Housing:**

The Muslims are facing discrimination in housing facility as 2.2% people of total population are homeless in England but the ratio in the Muslims is 5.1%. This is an evidence that the Muslim minority is facing discrimination in basic needs and necessities of life in the UK. They are being treated as other local citizens are provided facilities by the government. This is the thing which exposes the government of England which claims that we offer equal opportunities to all groups of society. This is against the UN charter of fundamental rights of minorities. This is reality that minorities have no equal rights in the UK in their practical life and Muslims are the most deprived among other groups of minorities in England.

<b>Establishment Type</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Muslims</b>	<b>%</b>
Prison Service	51659	5.5%	4838	15.5%
Approved Service	1150	0.1%	81	0.3%
Detention Centre and other Detention	11565	1.2%	1364	4.4%
Hostels or Temporary Shelters for the homeless	20868	2.2%	1587	5.1 % 7

#### **Unjustifiable Interrogation and Prison:**

According to the data of the ministry of justice, the total number of prisoners in England is 86067 which is 0.15% of total population of the UK but 4.8% of total population of the Muslims. Portion of Muslim prisoners is 13% of total prisoners in the UK which shows a huge difference that 0.42% Muslims are in prison. The Muslims are being targeted due to their religion as the report under shows:

#### **Prison Population by religion:**

<b>Religious Group</b>	<b>Prison Population</b>	<b>Prison Population as of All Prison Population</b>	<b>Religious Group Prison Population%</b>
Christian	43176	50.2	0.13
Muslims	11248	13.1	0.42
Hindu	456	0.5	0.06
Jewish	777	0.9	0.18
Buddhist	1756	2.0	0.67

Sikh	252	0.3	0.10
Other religious Group	1077	1.3	0.45
No Religion	25269	29.4	0.18
Not recorded	2037	2.4	0.05
All	86067		0.15 <sup>8</sup>

Day by day incidents of arresting and interrogating the Muslims without any reason are increasing. This report exposes how the number of Muslim prisoners is rapidly increasing as compared to others. "In 2002 there were over 4,000 Muslim prisoners in UK representing some 9% of the total Prison Population. Approximately 65 % of Muslim Prisoners were men aged between 18 and 30 years."

The Muslim prisoners have been deprived of their basic human rights according to international human rights charter for minorities of the United Nation Organization December 1992. After 9/11 the Muslims are being considered danger for the peace of the West and they are treated unequally so that they may go back to their home countries. Mostly on public places, when they are with their families, they have to face hateful comments and people raise slogans against the Muslims and Islam. It is observed that while travelling, the Muslim minority find themselves insecure at bus stations and airports they are stopped and kept under police custody saying that they looking like terrorists if they have beard and cap on their head. The women who cover their body according to the teaching of Islam are misbehaved at public places like market, visiting places and workplaces too. The Muslim prisoners are not allowed to perform prayers on time even during the holy month of Ramadan which is very special for the Muslims.

As this report shows: "It has been reported that the Muslim Prisoners have been unable to perform their prayers on time or to regulate their meal-times during Ramadan (the Muslims month of fasting). Lack of provision of halal food in prisons has been an issue reported on many occasions in the British Muslims Monthly Survey."<sup>9</sup>

This is against international law to prohibit anyone to perform his religious rites. The Muslim imams have to face insulting behave of prison officers when they go for spiritual training of the Muslim prisoners. Prison officers humiliate those imams due to their traditional dress and even some time they do not allow them to meet prisoners until they wear non-traditional dress.

"The Muslims imams were the target of Prison Officers' Racism and bullying. Imams were made to stand in line with inmates and denied access to prison keys which were given to chaplain. Attitude towards the imams only improved when they made the effort to fit in, for example, by wearing 'non-traditional' clothes."<sup>8</sup>

Moreover, the Islamic law and UN Law stated that the fundamental rights of human being can never be quitted or denied even if a person commits a heinous crime but in the prisons of England the Muslim prisoners are not to perform their religious rites. The Muslim imams who visit prisons to preach the Muslim prisoner for the right path are insulted and degraded by the prison staff is illegal. Muslims face multiple types

of deprivation while living in England especially in the field of economy, health, education and housing.

According to the research of (LAD) Local Authority Districts:

### The Muslims and Deprivations:

#### (IDM) INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION

10% Most Deprived Local Authority Districts-England	Average (IMD)2010	All	Muslim Population	Muslim Population as of % of All Population
Liverpool	43.4%	466415	15209	3.3
Hackney	42.9%	246270	34727	14.1
New ham	41.1%	307984	98456	32.0
Manchester	41.0%	503127	79496	15.8
Knowsley	40.4%	145893	435	0.3
Black pool	39.6%	142065	1061	0.7
Tower Hamlets	37.6%	254096	87696	34.5
Middlesbrough	37.5%	138412	9757	7.0
Birmingham	37.5%	1073045	234411	21.8
Kingston upon Hill	37.3%	256406	5447	2.1
Burnely	37.0%	87059	8580	9.9
Sand well	36.1%	308063	25251	8.2
Haringey	35.9%	254926	36130	14.2
Islington	35.4%	206125	19521	9.5
Waltham Forest	35.3%	258249	56541	21.9
Stoke on Trent	35.2%	249008	14993	6.0
Blackburn	35.2%	147489	39817	27.0
Sanford	34.7%	233933	6030	2.6
Hastings	34.5%	90254	1159	1.3
Nottingham	34.4%	305680	26919	8.8
Wolverhampton	34.4%	249470	9062	3.6
Barbing and Dagenham	34.2%	185911	25520	13.7
Rockdale	33.8%	211699	29426	13.9
Hartlepool	33.7%	92028	689	0.7
Leicester	33.6%	329839	61440	18.6
Bradford	32.6%	522452	129041	24.7
Helton	32.5%	125746	267	0.2
Greenwich	31.9%	254557	17349	6.8
Lambeth	31.2%	303386	21500	7.1
Lewsiham	31.0%	275885	17759	6.4
Barrow-in-Furness	30.9%	69087	172	0.2
Penble	30.7%	89452	15579	17.4
Hynburn	30.5%	80734	8336	10.3
Brent	30.5%	311215	58036	18.6
Total Population			1,217,958	<sup>10</sup>

**Economically Deprivation of the Muslims**

<b>Economically Active in Employment</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Muslims</b>	<b>%</b>
Employed part times	5,70111	12.5%	236,206	13.0%
Employed Full time	15,858,791	34.9%	358,413	19.8%
Self-employed Part time	1,220,761	2.7%	71,452	3.9%
Self employed Full time	2,823,552	6.2%	99,466	5.5%
Full time Student	1,077353	2.4%	65,759	3.6%
(unemployed)	----	---	----	----
Unemployed	1,802,620	4.0%	130,553	7.2%
Full Time Student	334,167	0.7%	37,801	2.1%
(Economically Inactive )				
Retired	9,713,808	21.4%	104959	5.8%
Student	2397348	5.3%	240248	13.3%
Looking after Home Family or	1796520	3.9%	247729	13.7%
Long Term Sick/Disable	1783292	3.9%	93179	5.1%
Others	987457	2.2%	125164	6.9%
All (ages 16-74)	45496780		1810929	<sup>11</sup>

The above-mentioned report shows that the Muslims are facing a lot of discrimination in the field of employment as compared to other population of the country. Level of unemployment among the Muslims is higher than the all others who belong to different religions as unemployment among local public is 4% only and among Muslims is 7.2%. This denial of basic necessity for citizens, government is the responsible to offer equal opportunities of employment for all citizens. It is against the law that someone is discriminated due to his/ her religion.

According to the report of (Office for National Statistics) 2011, unemployment rate was different where compared religion wise: “Around Seven Percent of the Muslims and Six Percent of Buddhists and Hindus were student’s unemployment compared with three percent of the Christians. The Jewish people and those with other religious affiliations 17% of economically active Muslims were un-employed (including unemployed students) Compared with around six percent of Christians and nine percent of people with no religion. The religion with the smallest proportion of people in this category was Jewish at four Percent”.<sup>12</sup>

The unemployment rate among the students belonging to different religion shows that the highest rate of unemployment is among Muslim students. This is a solid proof that the Muslims are ignored and deprived by different department around the country although many of them have nationality of England but they are being deprived due to their religion. This is against the local constitution of the country but the government does not show any seriousness to eradicate this issue.

According to “Tell Mama Reporting” 2013/14” England is not a safe country for the Muslims at all. They are being assaulted due to their religion and color of skin and hate crimes against the Muslims are increasing year to year.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides an estimate for the Number of hate crimes per year. The majority of these crimes are racially motivated. Not all of these hate crimes will come to the attention of the Police, so the number of offences recorded by the police is lower than in the CSEW: (2011/12 to 2012/13)

Estimated number of hate crime =	278000 Per Year
Racially or religiously motivated hate crime=	185000 Per Year
(Police) Recorded crimes 2012/13.	
Total number of hate crime =	42439 Per Year
Racially or religiously aggravation offences=	30234 Per Year
Detections 2012/2013	
Racially or religiously aggravation offences=	13768PerYear
Courts Proceedings (2012)	
Racially or religiously aggravation offences=	8898 Persons
(Convictions) 2012	
Racially or religiously aggravation offences=	6458 Persons <sup>13</sup>

This report shows that more than 2.5 million hate incidents occur per year in England, the most of them against the Muslims but a minor number of accused are considered culprit form courts. After 9/11 incident, number of racial attack against the Muslims increased rapidly, especially those Muslims were the target of these attacks who wear any Islamic symbol as beard, hijab or any other.

#### **According to the record of (ECHR) (European Commission for Human Rights)**

“After 9/11 and government response to such terrorist crimes. Muslims have been physically attacked and mosques vandalized or burnt in a number of countries. In the United Kingdom no less than eleven mosques were attacked after the London terrorist bombing on 7 July, 2005, and in France five mosques were attacked with explosives or put to fire in 2006”.<sup>14</sup>

Although all European countries claim that they believe that all human beings are equal and everyone has equal rights before law. All human beings have freedom of religion but after 9/11 Islam was accused the religion of extremism.

Even 2007 was the worst for the Muslims of England: “On August 23, 2007, The United Kingdom, in Southampton, a driver attempted to hit 30-year old woman wearing traditional Islamic dress and a headscarf “<sup>15</sup>. “May 15, 2007 in Meer brook, Isma, a 23-year-old woman was repeatedly pouched in the face and head..... She believed that the motivation for the attack was the headscarf she was wearing “.<sup>16</sup>

A big wave of hate crimes and discrimination arose against Muslims in the UK and level of hate crime increased 65% than past year. Some prominent incidents are presented as reference. I have divided these incidents in three categories.

#### **1-Physical Assault 2- Damage of Property 3- Verbal Abuse**

Attacking the Muslim Persons and Property or Institutions which have Muslim background.

Verbal abuse on Persons who are suspected of being, the Muslim faith.



**No.1 Assaults or attacks on persons of the Muslim Background.**

- i. "A Muslims woman, Umairi Musa, was assaulted by women while she sat with a pregnant friend, Mary Marandran in a Glasgow Park ".<sup>17</sup>
- ii. "Two Asian men, aged 25 and 21, were verbally and physically attacked in the early hours of 1 January 2013, by two men and one woman after leaving Pub in Kent ".<sup>18</sup>
- iii. "Following an English Defense league demonstration in Cleckheaton on 17 March 2012, Seven Men were charged with Violent Disorder for acts Committed including hurling racist abuse at a motorist and his Passenger, spitting on the passenger throwing a drink at their car and chasing another Asian man and subsequently beating him when he fell to the ground".<sup>19</sup>
- iv. "A 30 years old Asian woman was attacked in Colchester on 28 January 2013 when she was struck to the back of the head, causing her to fall to the floor, while her attacker shouted racist abuse at her".<sup>20</sup>
- v. "A 78 years Asian Women was physically assaulted by a man who committed a string offence in Aylesbury on June 2013".<sup>21</sup>
- vi. "A cyclist tried to pull off a Muslim woman's face veil as he rode past her near Victoria Park in Leicester on 26 May 2013".<sup>22</sup>
- vii. "The Victim was walking to the park with her family at the time of the incident. Two men on bikes rode toward them and one of the men reached out and grabbed the Victim's veil as they rode past. The Victim managed to push him away and the men rode off ".<sup>23</sup>
- viii. "Ahmed Farhan was assaulted as he left London Underground's station on 18 August 2012. As he left the train, The Victim became wary of a group of men who stepped off the train".<sup>24</sup>
- ix. "A 36-year-old Asian taxi driver, Mohammad Afzal, was attacked and racially abused by three men after picking up a fare at a Pub in Glasgow on 24 May 2013".<sup>25</sup>
- x. "A 55-year-old woman was brutally attacked on her way home in Mayfair, London, on 29 July 2-13; during Ramadan. Response received by email from Abid Choudury, Islamic Human Rights Commission, 28 August 2013".<sup>26</sup>

In above reported incidents, it is observed that the Muslims are not safe in England and they are now totally insecure around the country. The Muslim minority is being targeted by local groups and organizations who dislike Muslims and consider them terrorist. They physically attack those Muslims who are by look more affiliated to Islam. The Muslim women are the main target of these attacks who wear hijab or head scarf at public places. They also target Muslim when they are with their families in parks, walking along the road, shopping in the markets, going to worship places, bus and railway stations and visiting places. Government is not taking solid steps to protect Muslim minority. This a very strange and sad reality that above mentioned all incidents reveal that no one of them was harming or provoking anyone that might

cause of assault or attack due to his/ her offensive behavior. There is no evidence that Muslim minority violate the rule of the country or harm other citizen. They do not harm others instead of all this they are attacked and insulted by the native people.

### **No.2 Attacks on the Muslim Property or institution -**

- i. "A Pig's head was left outside a mosque in Newbury, Berkshire, on 23 2012".<sup>27</sup>
- ii. "Two men and a woman were sentenced for attacking bacon strips inside on 13 January 2011 ".<sup>28</sup>
- iii. "A 43-year-old man was charged with religiously aggravated harassment after leaving a Pig's head in the car park of North Jām'ia Mosque in Watford during evening prayers on 21 February 2013".<sup>29</sup>
- iv. "An investigation was launched by the North Wales Police after a garage behind Shafīul Islam's home in shotton was torched on 2 April 2013".<sup>30</sup>
- v. "Jām'ia Masjid Suafia Mosque in wake-Field was vandalized with unspecified food thrown at the side of the building on 4 April 2013".<sup>31</sup>
- vi. "The letters "EDL" were daubed in grey pain on a Mosque in Bedminster and in red Paint on a Sikh temple in Red field. Both were vandalized with the graffiti between 21 and 25 September, 2012".<sup>32</sup>
- vii. "Two men were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage after window of a mosque on Road in Wakefield. West Yorkshire was smashed in May 2013 ".<sup>33</sup>
- viii. "Strips of bacon were left at the entrance of Shah Jalal Mosque in Cardiff on 22 May 2013 ".<sup>34</sup>
- ix. "The Windows of Mosque in Grimsby were damaged following a Party 02 23 May 2013. A number of Parked Vehicles were also damaged and bins were overturned A Fast-food outlet in east London owned by a Muslim family was attacked on the night of 23 May 2013".<sup>35</sup>

The Muslim minority is already economically deprived and along with this, they are being attacked and harassed while at work places by their colleagues and others. The aggressive groups of native population attack not even the Muslim minority but also the Muslim places of worship. Mosques are being targeted, sometimes they set fire in Mosques and sometime write hate slogans on walls. It is prohibited in Islam to use the meat of pig so due to this reason they throw pig head in Mosques and sometime they burn the Holy Quran too. This is against their own national law and U.N.O laws of the minorities which they have signed to obey. Muslim minority is not enjoying religious freedom. Although the Muslims are taking part in the progress and prosperity of the country, the native public consider them danger for their economy, so the attacks on the Muslim properties is common.

### **Verbal abuse and Hate speech**

- i. "A man who tore pages from his copy of the Quran at a bookstall in Leicester City Center was charged with religiously aggravated in intentional harassment, alarm or distress by demonstrating hostility based on membership of a particular group of 12 May 2012".<sup>36</sup>

- ii. "Two men and a woman burst in to the Nair Mosque in Hart Liverpool and Shouted racial abuse on the evening of 5 February 2013. They entered the Mosque through the main entrance and caused a disturbance by shouting during prayer. When asked to leave, the group became racially abusive towards worshippers".<sup>37</sup>
- iii. "An unidentified woman hurled racial abuse at passenger on a London underground tube which was filmed by a fellow Passenger and posted onto YouTube Promoting an Investigation by British transport police".<sup>38</sup>
- iv. "A 48-year-old man passed a series of offensive messages on Facebook encouraging People to attack businesses run by the Muslims".<sup>39</sup>
- v. "A 24-year-old woman passed racist comments on Facebook in June 2013. Michaela Turner Posted the Comment: Feeling like Burning down some Mosques in Portsmouth, anyone want to join me".<sup>40</sup>
- vi. "A 25-year-old man. posted a message on Facebook about a Mosque in Grimsby being burned down on 24 May 2013".<sup>41</sup>
- vii. "A man was convicted of racially aggravated offences after threatening to burn down a Mosque".<sup>42</sup>
- viii. "A drunken woman and a man hurled racist abuse at staff in take way shop in Cleethorpes on 4 June 2013".<sup>43</sup>
- ix. "Football Fans allegedly tore out pages from a copy of the Qur'an and ripped them to pieces during a club match at middles brought Football club on 7 December 2013".<sup>44</sup>
- x. "An arson attack on a proposed mosque in Bristol was advocated in Comments posted on the webpage of the English Defense League Bristol Division on 4 December 2013. Islam phobia watch, 11 December 2013".<sup>45</sup>

The number of verbal abuses and hate speech incidents is massive because these incidents are normally not reported for any investigation. In routine life everywhere around the country the Muslim minority face verbal abuses by the native citizens. The Muslim men and women who apparently look like proper Muslim are the focused target of these un-pleasure incidents and they may face such type of harsh comments or verbal abuses many times in a week or month at work places, while shopping, during travel, on visiting places and seeking for job.

In 2013 incidents of physical attacks, property damage and verbal abuse are so many, it is not possible to write all here because many of them are off the record but from these incidents we can observe that the Muslim minority is facing discriminated behave in the field of economy, politics, religion and culture.

In England crime rate is increasing rapidly every year. The Muslim minority has no equal rights although national and international law give equal rights for all types of minorities in every field of life but the UK government has totally failed to provide basic rights to Muslim minorities and to protect them as other citizens. Survey reports shows that in 2011 that 25% of total hate incidents were only against the Muslim minority.

- i. In the United Kingdom, the Police have been recording data on hate crimes since 2008, and 4 out of the 43 Police forces also disaggregate the hate crimes into categories. “In 2011, total of 44,361 incidents were registered. Additionally, a minimum of 1,773 cases were recorded as religious hate crimes. The further breakdown based on these official figures showed that 52 Percent of the cases were hate crimes targeting the Muslims, 26 percent target Jews and 14 percent targeted Christians”.<sup>46</sup>
- ii. This report reveals that after 9/11 mosques, Islamic centers and the Muslim NGOs often have been targeted. The researchers of university of Exeter has claimed that after 9/11 each year about 100 to 200 mosques and Islamic centers have been targeted every year. This thing shows that UK has become the land of non-Muslim introverts who do not accept the Muslim minority in their country.

The Authors of a university of Exeter report on Anti-Muslim Hate crimes estimated that since 9/11 between 40 and 60 percent of British Mosque, Islamic Centers, and the Muslim organizations have experienced at least one attack that could have been reported as a hate crime. They corresponding assert that between 100 and 200 hate crimes against mosques, Islamic Centers and Muslim Organizations take Place every year, an estimate they describe as “Probably highly Conservative” The data set for 1st May 2013-28 February 2014 Includes 734 self-reported cases of these, there were 599 incidents of online abuse and 135 reported offline incidents. The offline incidents included 23 causes of assault, and another 13 involving extreme violence- two fifths of all the cases (both online and offline) were associated with far right groups.

**Terrorism Act and Muslim community in U.K.**

Western media negatively portrait Islam and Muslims. The local British public consider Muslims danger for them and security risk for their country. The Government of the UK has introduced a law named “Terrorism Act 2000” to control the terrorism. This law has two special sections (A44 and S43) due to these sections the UK security forces can stop, search and interrogate anybody around the country. This law is being misused against the Muslim minority. The Muslim minority is being targeted at airports, seaports, bus stands, railway stations and other public places. Those Muslims are the special target of the police who have beard or Islamic get up. This report shows the total number of those who were stopped and interrogated.

**Use of (S44) stop and Search Table**

Year	(S44) Stops and	Arrests for	Conviction for
//	Searches	Terrorism	Terrorism offences S44
//	//	offences from S44	
2001/02	10,200	20	0
2002/03	32,000	19	0
2003/03	33,800	19	0
2004/05	37,000	64	0
2005/06	50,000	105	0
2006/07	42,800	28	0

2007/08	126,500	19	0
2008/09	210,000	9	0
Total	542,400	283	0 <sup>47</sup>

This report shows that 550000 were stopped and searched under this law, but not a single one was found guilty. This law was dismissed in July 2010 because it was against the law (respect for private and family life). This shows that it was basically against the law of England, but instead it was being implemented for ten years.

### **Terrorism Act 2002:**

Under schedule 7 of this Act persons of different racial backgrounds were arrested and interrogated from 2010 to 2014.

Examined More than 1 Hour

<b>Sr. no.</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>
White	14%	12%	14%	11%
Black	15%	14%	14%	19%
Asian	45%	36%	33%	32%
Other	20%	24%	25%	25%
Mixed/not stated	6%	14%	15%	13% <sup>48</sup>

We can say that the UK has law for minorities to treat them equal but it is only in the book of law. It is not practically implemented in England. The Muslim minority is living in very miser conditions. They are not considered citizen of country. They are treated as guest worker there. They are living in substandard houses. They cannot get equal chances to find a job as the local citizens have. They can not avail proper health facilities and they are being treated as second class citizens. They cannot perform religious rites freely. They are not economically well settled. They have to face discrimination in every field of practical life.

### **Conclusion:**

This study perceives that the Muslims living in England have no equal rights as local citizens have. Sometime the Muslim minority has rights in written but not in practical life. Muslim minority is facing serious discrimination in all perspectives. They feel themselves inferior to native people because the public and government both behave unequal to them. Muslims were almost living peacefully before 9/11, but after this incident, they are not safe in England in bazar, market, playground, job places, Educational institutions and even walking alongside the roads. They are being suspected at bus stands, airports and hotels. They are stopped, harassed, investigated and interrogated only due to unreasoning suspicion. Terrorism is patched with Islam and worship places of the Muslims are under attacks. The Muslim women, who wear hijab are being attacked and insulted by the local citizens. In practical life, Muslim community in England has no equal rights in social, political and economic life.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1- The United Nations Organization should bound, the western countries to not only adopt (UNO) charter of minorities but also they should implement it practically.

- 2- The Muslims in the UK should unanimously struggle for their social, political, economic and religious rights.
- 3- To create religious harmony all human beings should be given rights according to their religion.
- 4- European Union and the UK government should take firm steps to eradicate negative propaganda against Islam and the Muslim minority.
- 5- UK government should set some norms for media to stop media trial of the Muslims as this has become habit to blame Muslims and Islam without investigation.

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<sup>4</sup>Census 2011, *ONS Table KS209 IEW, UK, Office for National Statistics* (GB)

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<sup>17</sup>OSCE Submission (2013), Human Rights First, Violence against Muslims, annual report 2013, P.43.

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Human Rights First is a nonprofit, nonpartisan international human rights organization based in New York and Washington D.C. To maintain our independence, we accept no government funding.

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<sup>24</sup>ENGAGE OSCE Submission (2013) - incident reference 2.16 P.15-16. Human Rights First, Violence Against Muslims, annual report 2013, P.11.

<sup>25</sup>The Scotsman, (4 February 2013), Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: incidents and responses, Annual report 2013, Office for Democratic Institution and Human Rights (ODIHR), P.66. (OSCE) organization for security and co-operation in Europe serve as a collection point for information and statistics on hate crimes and make this information publicly available. Thus, its purpose is to provide hard data and other information about the extent and types of hate crimes in the OSCE region in 2011

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