

Youth survey - December 2001

In December 2001, the MCB conducted a pilot survey to establish the attitude of Muslim teenagers to the Sept 11 attacks and the aftermath, and about life in Britain. No claims are made for the statistical validity of the survey results because the sample size was limited. About 100 British Muslim teenagers, roughly equal numbers of boys and girls, participated. The survey form was made available on-line and on hard-copy forms. Based on this experience, the MCB plans to conduct more rigorous and extensive youth surveys in the future.

Further information on the survey methodology can be obtained from the [MCB office](#).

Conclusions

- **September 11 attacks**

- the dominant feeling was one of sadness and shock on first hearing of the attacks
- the dominant feeling was one of outrage and shock on first hearing of the involvement of Muslims in the attacks, but boys were noticeably more guarded in disclosing their feelings
- the majority believed that Islam either prohibited or discouraged such attacks

- **Bombing of Afghanistan**

- the dominant feeling was one of sadness and outrage on first hearing of the attacks

- **Best aspects of living in Britain**

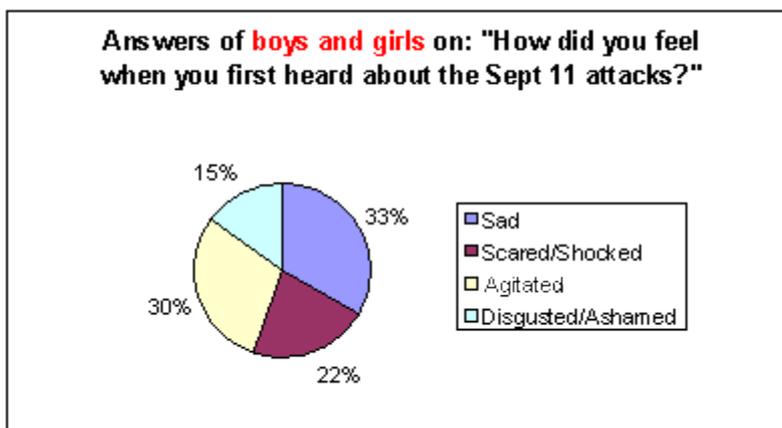
- for boys : mainly the freedoms and tolerance
- for girls : mainly the freedoms, multicultural climate and education

- **Worst aspects of living in Britain**

- for boys : mainly racism and the moral climate
- for girls : mainly racism, lack of respect and understanding, feeling of being an outsider

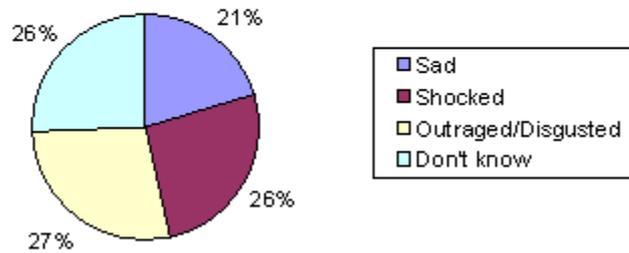
Survey results

1. Response to the September 11 news

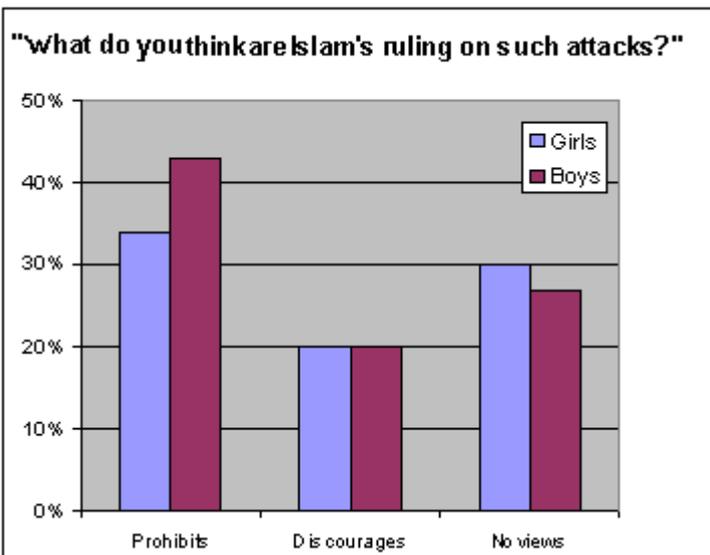


2. Response to involvement of Muslims in the September 11 attacks

BOYS: "How did you feel when you first heard that Muslims might have been involved in the attacks?"

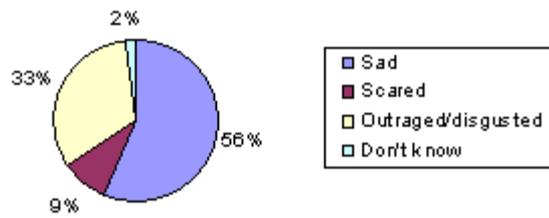


3. Perception of the Islamic position on such attacks



4. Response to the bombing of Afghanistan

GIRLS: "How did you feel when you first heard about the attacks on Afghanistan?"



5. Best aspects of living in Britain

[Boys](#) (click here)

[Girls](#) (click here)

6. Worst aspects of living in Britain

[Boys](#) (click here)

[Girls](#) (click here)

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What is the best aspect of living in Britain? (Muslim Boys' responses)

- **Freedom of religion, speech, tolerance**

- Being able to practice your religion freely and freedom of speech
- Freedom of action and of speech, freedom of criticising the government, freedom taken for granted
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom to practice Islam, in your own view and opinion
- Freedom to practice any religion
- Relative freedom
- Tolerance and opportunities
- Freedom of speech with no fear of being persecuted, and good standard of living.
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom (x2)
- That we can practice our faith freely, to a greater extent than in a Muslim country.
- Freedom of speech better than most Arab and Muslim countries.
- The government' s understanding
- People give the Muslims freedom

- **Education, technology**

- Technology and education and Facilities.
- The opportunities that we are given
- The technology is good
- Good education
- The education system
- It has everything you need for everyday life

- **Muslim network, facilities**

- There are mosques so you can pray in them
- The Muslims living in the UK are much better off than Muslims around the world
- Lots of mosques around Britain, the right to practice religion,
- There are many mosques and lectures about Islam so you learn more about your religion
- Huge Muslim network and ability to organize and work with a community (X2)
- Global aspects of Islam.
- Meeting good people (x2)

Best – Girls

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What is the best aspect of living in Britain? (Muslim Girls' responses)

- **Good education**

- Education. most non-Muslims are tolerant of us.
- Education is very good here.
- You can be educated
- Getting good education
- Good education, good jobs, no poverty
- Muslim communities and schools

- **Multicultural climate, freedom, standard of living**

- The people are more open-minded, and the media is more fairer than in other places.
- Very multi-cultural society.
- It is a mixed nation living together - no one tells us to get out
- Multi-ethnic community
- Different people to discuss things with
- People can start to accept Islam because it is a multicultural country

- Freedom to worship.
- Freedom to practice Islam (relatively, until now).
- Freedom of speech, education, facilities (internet, tv etc) people from different nations
- Being free and treated like other people
- Freedom to be the person you want to be
- More freedom towards women
- A better government than the country I came from
- You get to make new friends with different beliefs, which makes you understand more
- We can tell people about Islam
- To be able to tell those with wrong knowledge of Islam about the right things and aspects
- Your friends are not against you
- Some people really making the effort to make you fit in

- You can get more security
- Living in a cleaner area
- We have food and water
- There isn't much fighting
- We have better health care
- Halal food is quite accessible from most places in UK.
- It is OK

- **Muslim network**

- Lots of my family live here and it is the only place I have ever lived.
- The potential for positive input into society and being active islamically talking.
- Talking to people about Islam and learning more about it in Islamic circles
- Being around other Muslims
- Seeing how Muslim families live together
- There are other mosques and Muslims here

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What are the most difficult aspects of living in Britain? (Muslim Boys' responses)

- **Media, government**

- Persecution and media discrimination
- The value of a Muslim is undermined greatly and this is not helped by the present label of Islam= terror
- The stupid people who do not understand that we do not support Bin Laden or Taliban

- **Racism, lack of understanding**

- The amount of racism
- The racist People. And no place like home.
- Under constant pressure and scrutiny for being a coloured Muslim living in this country
- Islamophobia
- Racism (x5)
- The racial tensions being created by the BNP
- The racism and racial tensions sometimes stirred by the National Front
- People not having enough awareness about other religions.
- Having to contend with the pseudo-freedom that is promoted here and explain that Islam is a comprehensive and ideal system that has real freedom.
- Lack of knowledge on Islam and Muslim culture
- People think you are different but you are not
- Non-Muslim people don't accept Muslims and our status in this country
- That as Muslims we try and do good, yet due to the action of others we end up being stereotyped.

- **Distractions**

- I think it is being able to live a Muslim life. As a teenager I have been and still get distracted, and see many Muslims do things that Islam does not permit simply because its becoming more accepted between young Muslims to date, go clubbing and drink alcohol.
- Muslims become westernised by living here
- To be able to live a Muslim life with our restrictions (drinking, smoking)
- Trying to keep Islam in a western non-Muslim world
- Drugs, violence, sex, corruption (X2)
- It can be dangerous (x2)
- Trying to keep Islam in a western non-Muslim world
- Bad weather, constant darkness, twisted morality of society
- Non Halal Food in parties.
- Not having proper Muslim areas (environment) to live in (X3)

- **No difficulties**

- None, no difficult aspects (x4)

Worst – Girls

Link Expired