

FREEDOM FOR ISLAMOPHOBIA?

Those who claim they are championing Freedom of Expression by publishing the insulting depictions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) are in fact delusional in their claim. They have abused the right of Freedom of Expression to engineer an Islamophobic discourse in the public arena. These Islamophobes are the first to support the suppression of civil liberties of Muslims, particularly freedom of expression at home and abroad, on the pretext of combating extremism. These self-styled 'Muscular Liberals' are in fact Liberal Chauvinists whose intellectual reasoning is based around 'their way' or 'the highway'.

These Liberal Chauvinists excuse their narrow and closeted manner due to centuries of intellectual persecution by the European Churches. They fail to recognise that European Renaissance and Enlightenment have to be credited to centuries of Islamic civilisational rule in Europe and worldwide. Muslim rule had always historically championed free-thought and civilised expression. However, the historical hatred of the Liberal Chauvinists against religious institutions has been projected into venting their frustrations on the Muslim populace. This chauvinistic lobby must learn to free itself from its past demons by relinquishing the tools of oppression and adopt civilised discourse and debate.

Historically, Muslims did not oppress free-thinking and today, 1.7 billion Muslims will not submit to irrational and Uncivilised Expressionists.

It is one of the key objectives of the Liberal Chauvinists to bully the Muslim community into accepting their barbaric standards of discourse by ironically labelling the Muslims as 'barbarians' and 'backwards'. These Uncivilised Expressionists manipulate the freedom of speech to insult and mock, because they lack the intellectual arguments and reasoning to sustain any civilised critique of Islam and to openly debate with Muslim scholars and intellectuals.

To insult and mock are the weapons of the pretentious, who are guided by their hollow superiority complex and fuelled by their superficial understanding of true Islam. They believe that their belligerence in expression will prevail over the human necessity to have discourse and debate with moral integrity and sophisticated mannerisms. Regrettably, some Muslims today have followed the pathway of these extreme expressionists and taken the un-Islamic path of human destruction. However, the vast majority of Muslims worldwide shall not denigrate their historical and current values by reciprocating hatred. Muslims shall call upon their deep spiritual strength and take the moral high ground by inviting the world to civility in any form of expression, dialogue, discourse and debate.

**MUSLIMS SHALL DEFEND THE HONOUR OF THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD
(P.B.U.H.) BY INVITING THE WORLD TO JOIN THE CAMPAIGN FOR GLOBAL CIVILITY**

www.muslimactionforum.com

Muslim Action Forum



Campaign for Global Civility

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Muslim Action Forum

The Muslim Action Forum (formerly Muslim Action Committee) was formed by leading Muslim Scholars and Muslim organisations in 2005 to provide a united response on behalf of the British Muslim Community to the Jyllands-Posten cartoon controversy. Then, as now, we campaigned for Global Civility to be upheld by all those who contribute to public discourse in recognition that in today's global village, the values and sentiments of people from diverse backgrounds need to be acknowledged and not deliberately abused.

We submit that public discourse today routinely devolves into character assassination, malicious vilification and slandering sanctified and revered personalities, which ultimately undermines the objectives of the values of freedom of expression and weakens the foundations of a civilised society. At the same time, we fully accept the benefit and value of free and open debate, criticism and discussion on all matters in a civilised manner and language. Our aim is to promote a society in which freedom of expression is upheld and promoted however within the constraints of civility, respect and responsibility.

The recent re-publishing of the cartoons, caricatures and depictions of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) by Charlie Hebdo magazine and other publishers is a stark reminder that freedom of speech is regularly utilised to insult personalities that others consider sacred. Such actions are deliberately insulting and provoking to Muslims worldwide and as British citizens, we believe that these publications will continue to 'sow the seeds of hatred' and damage community relations. In an already fragile world we need to move from actions of incitement, hatred and provocation to civility, consideration and respect.

In these times of heightened tension, we feel that it is even more critical to continue with the Global Civility campaign with the aim of inculcating a peaceful and tolerant society.

We hope that you will support us in our campaign for Global Civility.

Freedom of Expression?

- The Human Rights Act Article 10: Freedom of Expression – under Article 10 everyone has the right of freedom of expression. However, the exercise of these freedoms is limited: “The exercise of these freedoms... may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society...”
- Muslim women in France are prevented from expressing their religious identity by being forbidden from wearing niqab in public places and hijab in educational centres.
- Public Order Act 1986 – prohibits certain acts intended or likely to stir up racial hatred including the use of words or behaviour or displays of written material which are threatening, abusive or insulting and intended to stir up racial hatred.
- Obscene Publications Act 1959 – makes commercial dealings in obscene items, or possession of them a criminal offence. With or without a prosecution, the items can be seized under a magistrate's warrant and, after a hearing to determine whether they contravene the statute, can be forfeited.
- 'Super Injunctions' – preventing the publication of the thing that is in issue and prevent the reporting of the fact that the injunction exists at all.
- Hate speech laws have been extended to ban ever-expanding categories of speech. Expressions of hatred toward someone on account of that person's colour, race, nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origin, religion, or sexual orientation are all forbidden.
- Laws intended to combat anti-social anti-social behaviour, terrorism and serious crimes are used against legitimate protesters
- The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 imposes tight restrictions on peaceful protest in Parliament Square.
- The Official Secrets Act 1989 – makes the disclosure of confidential material from government sources by employees a criminal offence.
- The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 – protest without permit within a 1km radius of Parliament.
- Libel & Slander Laws – seek to prevent defamatory statements of an individual in writing and speech.
- Data Protection Act 1984 – places restrictions on communicating personal data with third parties.