# Title: Religion and the media: How do the media represent Muslims?

**Key Questions:** What should we stand for? Does justice/fairness for me get in the way of justice/fairness for others? What do believers mean by justice and fairness? How do believers identify and understand the concept of truth? Is curiosity a good thing? When can looking back be a negative thing to do? Can we think of any examples of “Fake News”?

**Key Concepts:** media, social media, truth, justice, free speech, satire, humour, morality, offence/blasphemy

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| **Learning objectives** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
| To be able to evaluate media representations of Islam and Muslims | * Students to work in groups. Give them a series of newspaper articles such as :   **The Sun:** 1 in 5 British Muslims sympathy for jihadis.  **The Sun**: This shocking poll means we must shut door on young Muslim migrants  **The Sun**: Nad’s £1m Bake Off rake off  **The Times**: Child forced into Muslim foster care  **The Guardian**:Bake Off winner Nadiya  Hussain: ‘I wasn’t thinking about  representing Muslims, I was thinking about  my bakes’  **The Guardian**: Nadiya Hussain has won so  much more than the Great British Bake Off  **The Sun**: Nad’s £1m Bake Off rake off  **The Mirror:** Hundreds of Muslims marching against terrorism in London 'ignored by British media'  **The Independent:** Storm Desmond: Muslim charity dispatched to Cumbria amid further flood warnings  **The Metro:** Young Muslims get up early to clean streets after New Year’s celebrations  **The Radio Times:** Mishal Husain on being the first Muslim presenter of Today in the age of the "Islamic State"   * Using three highlighters identify positive, negative and neutral comments about Muslims. What sort of pictures/images are used? * What do they conclude about the representation of Muslims/Islam in the media? How could the articles make people feel about Islam/Muslims? * Do the media reflect Muslims fairly? * Read **The Independent article**: The Sun front page on British Muslims' 'sympathy for jihadis' receives record complaints * Discuss whether The Sun was right to publish the article in the way they did. Should they have published it at all? * Read parts of the Guardian’s interview with Miqdaad Versi about misreporting about Muslims in the media * What responsibilities do you think the press have when reporting on religion/religious people/religious people? * Has social media got a role to play? Has there been a backlash against traditional media by posts on Twitter /Facebook etc (could use the “You ain’t no Muslim bruv” #) * How do we balance freedom of speech with responsibility? * Create a 10-minute report – can be a presentation/video/speech to the Prime Minister called “Muslims and the Media”- it must include a summary of how you think Muslims are presented and what if anything you think should happen in the future. | Articles available online- will need to be updated for current articles  Miqdaad Versi interview:  https://www.theguardian.com/news/2018/oct/18/miqdaad-versi-very-polite-fight-against-british-media-islamophobia |