

Islamophobia Unveiled: Harnessing Social Media for Positive Change- An Analytic Study on Facebook and Twitter

الإسلاموفوبيا بلا قناع: استغلال وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي للتغيير الإيجابي -دراسة تحليلية لفيسبوك وتويتر-

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ملخص البحث:

Abstract

In today's interconnected digital landscape, the power of social media to shape Islamophobia has become increasingly evident. The aim of this study is to explore how social media can combat Islamophobia and promote positive change within British Muslim society. Focusing on different Facebook and Twitter pages representing the Muslim community, the study investigates strategies used to challenge Islamophobic narratives. Through content and sentiment analysis, this paper also examines the types of content, engagement patterns, and sentiments expressed. The findings reveal diverse approaches to counter Islamophobia, including promoting Islamic values, debunking stereotypes, and highlighting positive contributions. Ultimately, this study highlights social media's potential as a platform for positive change, demonstrating how the examined Facebook pages counter Islamophobia, facilitate dialogue, and foster community cohesion.

Keywords: British Muslim, Islamophobia, social media, facebook, Twitter.

في المشهد الرقمي المترابط اليوم، أصبح من الواضح بشكل متزايد مدى تأثير وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي في تشكيل الإسلاموفوبيا والتأثير على الخطاب الاجتماعي. يهدف هذا البحث إلى استكشاف كيف يمكن لوسائل التواصل الاجتماعي أن تكافح الإسلاموفوبيا وتروج للتغيير الإيجابي داخل المجتمع المسلم البريطاني. من خلال التركيز على صفحات مختلفة فيسبوك وتويتر تمثل المجتمع المسلم البريطاني، يحقق البحث في الاستراتيجيات المستخدمة لتحدي السرديات الإسلاموفوبية. من خلال تحليل المحتوى والمشاعر، يفحص هذا البحث أيضًا أنواع المحتوى وأنماط المشاركة والمشاعر المعبر عنها. تكشف النتائج عن مقاربات متنوعة لمواجهة الإسلاموفوبيا، بما في ذلك تعزيز القيم الإسلامية، وتنفيذ الصور النمطية، وتسليط الضوء على المساهمات الإيجابية. في النهاية، يسلط الضوء على إمكانية وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي كمنصة للتغيير الإيجابي، موضحةً كيف أن صفحات فيسبوك المفحوصة تواجه الإسلاموفوبيا وتسهل الحوار وتعزز تماسك المجتمع.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المسلمون البريطانيون، إسلاموفوبيا، مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي، فيسبوك.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Islamophobia is becoming a growing concern on social media in Britain. A recent report by the Muslim Council of Britain reveals that the number of Islamophobic hate crimes has risen by 375% since the 2016 Brexit referendum. Social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter have become a breeding ground for the spread of Islamophobic content, including conspiracy theories, misinformation, and hate speech. However, social media companies are taking measures to combat the spread of such content and to hold users accountable for their actions. For instance, Twitter has announced in 2021 that it would ban users who repeatedly post Islamophobic or any other form of hate speech.

British Muslim society is a diverse and vibrant community. It is important to understand the different perspectives and experiences of British Muslims in order to build a more inclusive and tolerant society. This research article presents an analytic study of some Facebook and Twitter pages representing British Muslim society. The study aims to identify the key themes and issues that are important to British Muslims and to understand how they are using social media to connect and share their experiences.

British Muslims are grappling with what it means to be British and Muslim in the 21st century. They are facing increasing Islamophobia and discrimination, and they are also navigating the challenges of living in a multicultural society. Faith is an important part of the lives of many British Muslims. They are using social media to learn about their religion, to connect with other Muslims, and to share their faith with others. British Muslims are building strong communities online and offline. They are using social media to organize events, to support each other, and to raise awareness of important issues. British Muslims are passionate about social justice and equality. They are using social media to speak out against discrimination and to advocate for change.

2. Understanding Islamophobia: Origins, Manifestations, and Impacts

Islamophobia has a significant impact on the lives of British Muslims. It can lead to social isolation, discrimination, and violence. British Muslims may be denied jobs, housing, or education because of their faith. They may also be targets of hate crimes and terrorist attacks. Islamophobia also hurts society as a whole. It undermines social cohesion and tolerance. It also creates a climate of fear and mistrust.

2.1 Definition of Islamophobia

There is a strong belief that magnanimous religion and pure values don't crush, but it is important to recognize that Islamophobia is a complex issue influenced by various factors, including political, media, and social dynamics. Addressing Islamophobia requires collective efforts from all segments of society, including governments, media organizations, and educational institutions.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word islamophobia means: *"Intense dislike or fear of Islam, esp. as a political force; hostility or prejudice towards Muslims"*.

According to (SOUHALI, 2010) the term islamophobia is literally *"the fear/hate of Islam. Inside this term lie issues related to Muslims, Arabs, language, and color of skin. Islamophobia is, like other forms of scapegoating thinking, a matter of misunderstanding Islam and the people behind it. It stems from an extrapolation of individual empirics to*

the whole Muslim population.”

Following a “widespread consultation with academics, lawyers [and] Muslim organisations”, it recommended the adoption of the following definition: “Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.” (Joe Tyler-Todd, 2023)

The definition offered by (SETA), in its report on European Islamophobia in 2015, stated that: “Islamophobia operates by constructing a static ‘Muslim’ identity, which is attributed in negative terms and generalized for all Muslims.” (HAFEZ, 2016)

In 2004, the Council of Europe said Islamophobia is the: “fear of or prejudiced viewpoint towards Islam, Muslims and matters pertaining to them [taking] the shape of daily forms of racism and discrimination or more violent forms, Islamophobia is a violation of human rights.” (Goddard, 2018)

These definitions are all similar in that they emphasize fear, hatred, and/or hostility towards Islam and Muslims. They also all recognize that Islamophobia can lead to discrimination and other forms of harm. Overall, we can say that Islamophobia refers to the fear, prejudice, or discrimination against Islam and Muslims. It involves negative attitudes, stereotypes, and biases that result in the marginalization, exclusion, or mistreatment of individuals or communities based on their Islamic faith or perceived association with Islam.

2.2 Investigate the Different Forms of Islamophobia in Britain

In Britain, Islamophobia manifests itself in various forms and contexts. Understanding and addressing these different forms of Islamophobia are crucial steps toward creating a more inclusive and tolerant society in Britain. The experiences and manifestations of Islamophobia are diverse; here are some common faces of Islamophobia in Britain:

2.2.1 Anti-Muslim Hate Crime:

Hate crimes targeting Muslims in Britain are a serious concern and have been reported over the years. These hate crimes specifically target individuals or communities based on their Muslim identity. According to (Iman Atta, 2023) in Tell MAMA report here are some the different forms regarding hate crimes against Muslims in Britain:

- Physical Assaults:

There have been numerous incidents of physical assaults targeting Muslims in Britain. For example, in June 2017, a man drove a van into worshippers outside the Finsbury Park Mosque in London, killing one person and injuring several others. The attacker specifically targeted Muslims leaving the mosque after evening prayers.

- Mosque Attacks:

Mosques have often been the targets of hate crimes. In 2013, the Al-Rahma Islamic Centre in Muswell Hill, London, was firebombed, causing extensive damage. The attack was motivated by Islamophobia, and the perpetrators were convicted of arson.

- Harassment and Verbal Abuse:

Muslims in Britain frequently face verbal abuse and harassment in public spaces. Incidents include individuals being subjected to Islamophobic slurs, threats, or offensive gestures. These encounters can create a hostile and intimidating environment for Muslims.

– Vandalism and Property Damage:

There have been instances of vandalism and property damage targeting Muslim individuals and communities. For instance, mosques have been defaced with graffiti containing Islamophobic messages or symbols. Such acts aim to intimidate and create fear within Muslim communities.

– Online Hate Speech:

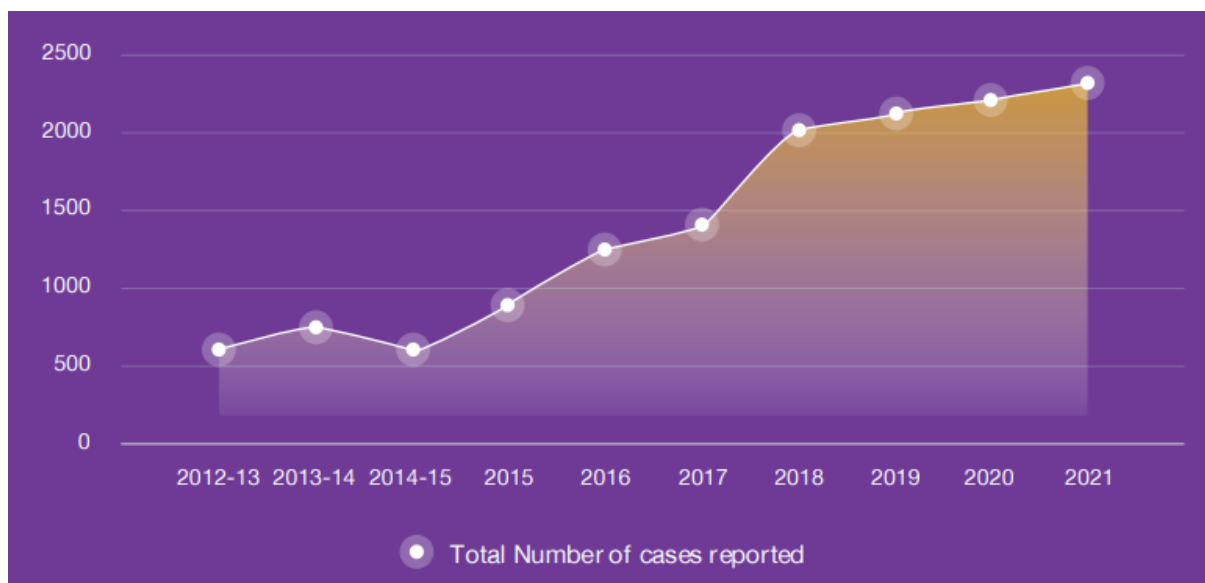
Islamophobic hate speech is prevalent on online platforms in Britain. Muslims are often subjected to online abuse, including threats, insults, and harassment. This form of hate speech can contribute to an atmosphere of hostility and exclusion.

– Discrimination in Employment:

Muslims in Britain have reported instances of employment discrimination based on their religious identity. This can include being denied job opportunities, facing unequal treatment or harassment in the workplace, or being subjected to unfair policies targeting religious practices.

According to the Tell MAMA report, the most common type of hate crime against Muslims is verbal abuse, followed by threats and assault. The report also found that Muslim women are more likely to be victims of hate crime than Muslim men. Concerns about Islamophobia have been raised in Britain, particularly following high-profile incidents and terrorist attacks. Muslim communities have reported an increase in Islamophobic incidents, ranging from verbal harassment to physical assaults as shown in the following Figure:

Fig.1. cases of hate crime reported 2012-2021



Source: (Iman Atta, 2023)

According to the Home Office, there were 155,841 hate crimes recorded in England and Wales in 2021/22, an increase of 22% from the previous year. This is the highest number of hate crimes recorded since 2014/15.

However (Jonathan Githens-Mazer, 2010) said: “these cases, among others, serve as reminders of the existence and impact of hate crimes in Britain. They underline the importance of implementing measures to prevent such crimes, foster inclusivity, and promote understanding among different communities. Efforts to combat hate crimes require a comprehensive approach involving education, awareness, community support, and legal measures to ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators”. Jonathan Githens-Mazer and Robert Lambert summarize information about hate crimes in Britain.

2.2.2 Discrimination of British Muslims:

Discrimination against British Muslims is a serious problem that needs to be addressed in all areas of society. This includes public institutions, places of work, educational institutions, private properties, transport networks, places of business, and hospitals to ensure the safety, well-being, and equal treatment of individuals within society. Efforts to combat discrimination involve raising awareness, implementing robust reporting mechanisms, providing support for victims, and promoting inclusive and respectful environments across various sectors to address the factors of discrimination, which are as follows according to (Farhadi, 2020):

- Verbal abuse or harassment based on a person's race, religion, or other protected characteristics in parks, streets, shopping centers, or public squares.
- Physical assaults motivated by hate or prejudice in public spaces.
- Racist or Islamophobic verbal abuse or threats on board buses, trains, or trams.
- Threats or acts of violence directed at individuals or families due to their protected characteristics.
- Workplace harassment or bullying based on a person's race, religion, gender identity, or other protected characteristics.
- Discrimination in hiring, promotions, or work assignments due to prejudice or bias.
- Bullying or intimidation of students based on their race, religion, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics.

Islamophobia can manifest in a variety of ways, both online and offline. It can be found in the media, in the workplace, in schools, and in public places. It can also be found in the policies and practices of institutions.

2.3 Exploring the Impacts of Islamophobia:

Islamophobia has far-reaching consequences. It not only affects the daily lives of Muslims but also impacts social cohesion, human rights, and global peace. Muslims may experience discrimination in areas such as employment, education, housing, and public services. Hate crimes and acts of violence against Muslims have also been on the rise in some parts of the world. Islamophobia has far-reaching consequences that impact individuals, communities, and society as a whole. Here are some of the significant consequences of Islamophobia:

2.3.1 Psychological and Emotional Impact:

Islamophobia can have severe psychological and emotional effects on individuals who experience it. Muslims may face increased stress, anxiety, fear, and a constant sense

of insecurity. The fear of being targeted or discriminated against can take a toll on their mental well-being and overall quality of life. Muslims experiencing Islamophobia may constantly feel on edge and apprehensive due to the fear of being targeted or discriminated against. This heightened state of vigilance can lead to chronic stress, anxiety, and a sense of insecurity in their daily lives. Islamophobia can negatively impact an individual's sense of identity and self-esteem. Constant exposure to derogatory stereotypes and discrimination based on their religious affiliation can lead to feelings of shame, self-doubt, and internalized oppression. (Ali, 2021) and (Khan Z. , 2021):

2.3.2 Academic and Professional Consequences:

Discrimination and Islamophobia can negatively impact educational and professional opportunities. Muslim individuals may face barriers in academic settings, employment, or career advancement due to prejudice and biases. This can lead to feelings of frustration, decreased motivation, and hindered personal growth. Muslim individuals may face barriers in accessing quality education due to discrimination and Islamophobia. They may encounter prejudiced attitudes, stereotypes, or biased practices that limit their educational opportunities. This can result in disparities in educational attainment and hinder their future prospects. Discrimination and Islamophobia can impede Muslims' access to employment opportunities. They may face biases during the recruitment process, encounter workplace discrimination, or experience limited career advancement due to prejudice or stereotypes. This can result in a narrower range of job prospects and reduced earning potential. (Wazir, 2022) and (Asthana, 2017)

2.3.3 Impact on Social Integration:

Islamophobia hampers social integration efforts and creates barriers to effective multiculturalism. When Muslims face discrimination and hostility, it becomes challenging for them to fully participate in society, engage in meaningful interactions, and contribute to the diverse fabric of the nation. Muslims experiencing Islamophobia may withdraw from social interactions and engagement due to the fear of discrimination or hostility. This isolation can hinder their ability to build relationships, form connections, and participate fully in social activities. It creates barriers to meaningful interactions with individuals from different backgrounds and impedes the development of inclusive communities. Islamophobia can result in economic disadvantages for Muslims, hindering their social integration. Discrimination in employment and business opportunities can limit their economic prospects, leading to disparities in income, wealth, and access to resources. Economic marginalization further perpetuates social exclusion, making it harder for Muslims to fully participate in society. (Cheng, 2015)

It is important to note that Islamophobia is not a monolithic phenomenon. It can manifest in different ways, and it can be influenced by a variety of factors, including the individual or group's social, political, and economic context. Islamophobia also has a negative impact on society as a whole. It undermines social cohesion and tolerance. It also creates a climate of fear and mistrust.

3. Social Media

Social media has become an increasingly important part of British society in recent years. According to Ofcom's 2022 Digital Media Habits Report, 80% of UK adults use social media, with the most popular platforms being Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

3.1 The Rise of Social Media

The rise of social media has had a mixed impact on society. It has made it easier for people to stay connected and informed, but it has also led to the spread of misinformation and hate speech. It is important to be aware of the potential risks and benefits of social media, and to use it responsibly.

3.1.1 Social Media in the 20th Century:

Technology began to change very rapidly in the 20th Century. After the first super computers were created in the 1940s, scientists and engineers began to develop ways to create networks between those computers, and this would later lead to the birth of the Internet. The earliest forms of the Internet, such as CompuServe, were developed in the 1960s. Primitive forms of email were also developed during this time. By the 70s, networking technology had improved, and 1979's UseNet allowed users to communicate through a virtual newsletter. By the 1980s, home computers were becoming more common and social media was becoming more sophisticated. Internet relay chats, or IRCs, were first used in 1988 and continued to be popular well into the 1990's. "The first recognizable social media site, Six Degrees, was created in 1997 says. It enabled users to upload a profile and make friends with other users. In 1999, the first blogging sites became popular, creating a social media sensation that's still popular today." Says Andy Schmidt, Head of Communications at Viral. (Muller, 2021)

3.1.2 Social Media Today:

After the invention of blogging, social media began to explode in popularity. Sites like MySpace and LinkedIn gained prominence in the early 2000s, and sites like Photobucket and Flickr facilitated online photo sharing. YouTube came out in 2005, creating an entirely new way for people to communicate and share with each other across great distances. By 2006, Facebook and Twitter both became available to users throughout the world. These sites remain some of the most popular social networks on the Internet (Lile,2023).

Today, in addition to this service, Snapchat also allows people to chat with one another as well as share a "24-hour story," which gives users the chance to post photos and videos and save them for one full day. Currently, it has around 186 million active users, although it is particularly popular among young people, leading many people to believe Snapchat's influence will grow in the coming years. Social media history is relatively short in terms of time, and while there's no doubt about its positives and negatives (just ask Dean McCrae), this doesn't make it any less exciting or influential. Today, social media is an integral part of how people connect with friends and family. Overall, there are some 2.62 billion social media users around the world, and this number is expected to grow to over 3 billion by 2021. (Jones, 2021)

Overall, Social media has had a profound impact on the world. It has changed the way we communicate, consume information, and interact with each other. While there are some concerns about the potential negative impacts of social media, it is clear that it is here to stay. It is important to use social media responsibly and to be aware of the potential risks.

3.2 The Growth and Influence of Social Media

The advent of social media has revolutionized the way people connect,

communicate, and share information on a global scale. This research article aims to explore the rise of social media and its profound impact on society, culture, and various sectors worldwide.

3.2.1 Global Penetration and User Demographics:

Social media platforms have experienced unprecedented growth, reaching billions of users worldwide. From Facebook and Twitter to Instagram and TikTok, these platforms have transcended geographical boundaries, connecting people across diverse cultures, languages, and demographics. User demographics vary across platforms, with regional preferences and cultural nuances shaping social media usage patterns.

3.2.2 Communication, Connectivity, and Information Sharing:

Social media platforms have transformed communication dynamics, enabling instant connectivity and information sharing. Users can engage in real-time conversations, participate in online communities, and disseminate news and content with a global audience. The speed and reach of social media have democratized information flow, empowering individuals to become content creators and influencers.

3.2.3 Social, Cultural, and Political Impact:

Social media has become a catalyst for social movements, cultural exchange, and political activism. Hashtags and viral campaigns have amplified voices, mobilized communities, and raised awareness about important social issues. Social media has also influenced cultural trends, consumer behavior, and political discourse, challenging traditional power structures and facilitating citizen participation. The rise of social media has had a number of impacts on British society, both positive and negative. On the positive side, social media has made it easier for people to stay connected and informed, and it has provided a platform for people to express their views and opinions. On the negative side, social media can be used to spread misinformation and hate speech, and it can be addictive.

4. The Nature of Islamophobia on Social Media in Britain

Social media is a new reality in our modern life. People in rural tea shops do not have any information about the newspapers. Instead of the smartphone and iPhone dependency. 70 percent of internet users worldwide are connected through social media. The rate among youth is even higher, about 90 percent (Habib, 2018).

4.1 Opportunities of Social Media for British Muslims:

Social media provides a platform for connecting with friends and family who may have been lost or have moved away. It is also an avenue for sharing opinions on various topics and spreading awareness about one's country to millions of people worldwide. As stated in the holy Quran, *O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones.* "Surah At-Tahrim - 6 -

It encourages socialization : Now the era of technology .The whole world has become a village now for the benefit of technology. Social media can post or share videos or photos; Find Communications; Friends profile is seen; various festivals are found; Chat can be done; Message can be sent; Games go play. Most importantly, it takes much time to find friends in real life, social media can be built more easily than a 'Friends Circle'. It is possible to invite old friends in the communication medium, create new friends, and invite others outside their own circles. All these developments of technology are very special for Islam and Muslims. Allah (SWT) said: *"The believing men and believing*

women are allies of one another. They enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong”

4.2 Challenges Facing the British Muslim Society on Social Media

Social media is one of the most powerful tools to spread the word with at least cost and minimal effort. It is now a global pinnacle that has changed lives. In some places, the Internet is considered to be prohibited as alcohol, but in some places, there are only no restrictions. Since the Internet is easily accessible and cheap, some of Satan's worshipers have taken advantage of it and they have spread the free and inexpensive illegal content on the Internet. Also, social websites are being used by less mentality than the same mentality (Muneera & Fowzul Ameer, 2017).

The British Muslim society faces several challenges on social media, which can have significant implications for individuals and the community as a whole. Some of the key challenges include: Islamophobia and Hate Speech, misrepresentation and Stereotyping, online Radicalization, online Bullying and Harassment: Like any other community, British Muslims are vulnerable to online bullying and harassment. Social media platforms can be platforms for individuals to target Muslims based on their religious beliefs, appearance, or cultural practices, which can negatively impact their emotional well-being and sense of safety.

5. Analytic Study on Facebook and Twitter:

Anti-Muslim hate speech has become a pervasive issue on social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter. This study aims to provide an analytic examination of anti-Muslim hate speech on these platforms, exploring its prevalence, forms, and impacts. The study will also present case studies to illustrate the real-world consequences of this harmful phenomenon.

5.1 Hate Speech on Facebook and Twitter:

In recent years, there has been a disturbing rise in hate speech targeting British Muslims on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. This hateful rhetoric is not only deeply offensive and hurtful, but it also has serious real-world consequences, fueling Islamophobia and inciting violence against British Muslims. Numerous studies and reports have documented the prevalence of anti-Muslim hate speeches highlighting its impact on Muslim communities and the broader society. Here are some notable examples of these studies:

"The Everyday Experiences of Online Hate Speech and Abuse: Findings from the Muslim Engagement and Empowerment Project" (2019) by the University of Birmingham found that 52% of British Muslims had experienced online abuse, with 22% reporting that they had been threatened with violence. The study also found that online abuse had a significant negative impact on the mental health of British Muslims, with 44% reporting that it had made them feel anxious or depressed.

"Understanding the Impact of Online Hate Speech on Young British Muslims" (2020)

by the University of Leicester found that 63% of young British Muslims had experienced online abuse, with 32% reporting that they had been threatened with violence. The study also found that online abuse had a significant negative impact on the self-esteem and sense of belonging of young British Muslims.

"The Role of Social Media in the Spread of Islamophobia in the UK" (2021) by the Centre for Social Justice found that social media platforms are being used to spread Islamophobic content, which is contributing to the rise of Islamophobia in the UK. The study also found that social media platforms are not doing enough to remove Islamophobic content and to hold users accountable for their actions.

Hashtags are used by British Muslims to raise awareness about the issue of Islamophobia, to challenge prejudice and stereotypes, and to promote understanding and tolerance of Islam and Muslims. They are also used to call for action against Islamophobia, to protect Muslim communities, and to create a more inclusive and respectful society. By using these hashtags, British Muslims are helping to combat Islamophobia and to promote a more just and equitable society for all. here's some hashtags used by British Muslims to combat Islamophobia:

#SpeakOutAgainstIslamophobia:

This hashtag encourages individuals to openly condemn Islamophobic acts, challenge discriminatory statements, and amplify the voices of Muslims facing prejudice. It emphasizes the power of collective action in addressing Islamophobia and fostering a more inclusive society.

#TakeActionAgainstIslamophobia:

This hashtag calls for tangible steps to combat Islamophobia, ranging from supporting organizations working against Islamophobia to advocating for policy changes that protect Muslim communities. It highlights the need for proactive measures to dismantle Islamophobic structures and create a safer environment for Muslims.

#HoldAccountableForIslamophobia:

This hashtag demands accountability from individuals, organizations, and institutions that contribute to or perpetuate Islamophobia. It emphasizes the importance of identifying the root causes of Islamophobia and holding those responsible for their actions.

#ProtectMuslimCommunities:

This hashtag advocates for the safety and well-being of Muslim communities, both online and offline. It calls for measures to prevent Islamophobic attacks, protect Muslim spaces, and promote understanding and acceptance of Islam and Muslim culture.

#CreateASaferWorld:

These hashtags represent a powerful call to action against Islamophobia, urging individuals and communities to take a stand against prejudice and discrimination. They serve as a reminder of the importance of speaking out, taking action, holding accountable those responsible, protecting vulnerable communities, and striving for a safer world where everyone can thrive.

5.2 Analytic Study of some Facebook and Twitter Pages :

Islamophobia has become a prevalent issue on social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter. These platforms have faced criticism for their handling of Islamophobic content, prompting them to implement various measures to address this issue. This study aims to provide an analytic examination of Facebook and Twitter's efforts to address Islamophobia, assessing their effectiveness and identifying areas for improvement.

5.2.1 UK Politics Page Official of the Government:

This British page have 1,9 K J'aime and 2,1 K followers, put many posts on british muslims society and repress facts about them as a part of the british society Britain page on social media that is dedicated to raising awareness about British Muslim society and representing facts about them. This page can play an important role in combating Islamophobia and promoting understanding and tolerance. Show us this post:



Channel 4 News Democracy · Suivre

30 novembre 2017 ·

"On the issue of radical Islam, British Muslims are peaceful law abiding people who have themselves been the subject of acts - and the victims of acts - of terror by the far-right."

Theresa May responds to retweets by President Donald J. Trump of three anti-Muslim videos from a fringe British far-right group.

Voir la traduction



Jeremy Corbyn, a prominent British politician, served as the leader of the Labour Party from 2015 to 2020. During his time as leader, Corbyn often emphasized his commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and social justice. He advocated for the rights of marginalized communities, including British Muslims, and aimed to address issues such as Islamophobia and discrimination.

5.2.2 Theresa May Official Page:

Theresa May who served as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 2016 to 2019. During her tenure, she addressed issues related to radical Islam and emphasized that British Muslims are peaceful, law-abiding individuals who have themselves been targeted by acts of terror, including those perpetrated by far-right extremists. May's statement reflects her stance on the matter, emphasizing the importance of not stigmatizing or associating British Muslims with acts of terrorism. It acknowledges that Muslims in the UK have also been victims of terrorist attacks, highlighting the need for unity, understanding, and solidarity in combating extremism and promoting social cohesion. It's worth noting that political views and statements can vary, and perspectives on this issue might differ among individuals and within different political contexts. It's important to consider a range of perspectives and rely on various credible sources to form a well-rounded understanding of a complex topic like radicalism and its impact on different communities such as this post:

5.2.2 Muslim Council of Britain

The Official page of the Muslim Council of Britain is an umbrella organization representing Muslim communities in the UK. Zara Mohammed, the secretary general of MCB said: " We work to ensure British Muslims are accurately represented in the media, We challenge islamophobia headlines, poor reporting and talk on the issues that matter most to communities. Our policy research bridges the gap between grassroots knowledge and new policy ideas to drive positive change at all levels of society " (Muslim Council of Britain). Zara Mohammed's statement as the Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) reflects the organization's commitment to promoting accurate representation of British Muslims in the media and challenging Islamophobic narratives. This is an important goal considering the impact media can have on shaping public perceptions and attitudes.

By addressing islamophobic headlines and advocating for improved reporting, the MCB aims to counter misinformation and stereotypes that can contribute to discrimination and prejudice against Muslims. This work is crucial in fostering a more inclusive and understanding society that values diversity. Zara Mohammed also emphasizes the importance of addressing the issues that matter most to Muslim communities. By engaging in policy research, the MCB seeks to bridge the gap between grassroots knowledge and policy-making, ensuring that the voices and concerns of British Muslims are heard and considered in decision-making processes. This approach aims to drive positive change at all levels of society. Overall, the MCB is dedicated to combating Islamophobia, promote accurate representation, and advocate for the rights and well-being of British Muslims. Their efforts align with the broader goals of fostering inclusivity, challenging stereotypes, and working towards a more harmonious society.

5.2.3 Muslim Engagement and Development

Muslim Engagement and Development is a grassroots organization that has an account on Twitter aiming to empower British Muslims and promote positive community engagement. Muslim Engagement and Development (MEND) is an organization with a significant online presence, as indicated by its subscriber count of 1,710 and a follower count of 22.8k. MEND's mission is to engage with and support the Muslim community in various areas, including education, advocacy, and combating Islamophobia. With 1,710 subscribers, MEND likely offers regular updates, content, and resources to its subscribers. This could include newsletters, articles, videos, and other forms of media that aim to provide information and insights on topics relevant to the Muslim community. By maintaining an active subscriber base, MEND demonstrates its commitment to reaching out to individuals who are interested in their work and engaging with them.

Additionally, MEND's substantial follower count of 22.8k Twitter platform suggests a broad reach and influence within the online community. By having a significant number of followers, MEND can amplify its messages, campaigns, and initiatives, potentially reaching a wider audience and attracting more support for their cause, which is to sharing news, articles, and positive stories related to British Muslims.

Overall, MEND's subscriber and follower counts indicate a strong online presence, reflecting their efforts to engage with and support the Muslim community. Through their content and outreach, MEND aims to provide valuable resources, raise awareness about important issues, and foster a sense of community cohesion among their subscribers and followers.



5.3 Efforts to Address Islamophobia on Facebook and Twitter.

There are ongoing efforts to address anti-Muslim hate speech on Facebook and Twitter. These efforts include:

- Platform policies: Both Facebook and Twitter have policies against hate speech, and they have made efforts to improve their detection and removal of hateful content.
- User reporting tools: Users can report hate speech they encounter on these platforms, and these reports are used to identify and remove harmful content.
- Civil society initiatives: Various organizations are working to raise awareness about anti-Muslim hate speech, educate users about how to identify and report it, and support victims of online harassment.

Despite these efforts, anti-Muslim hate speech remains a persistent problem on Facebook and Twitter. More needs to be done to address this issue.

6. CONCLUSION

The study found that British Muslims are using social media in a variety of ways to connect with each other, to share their experiences, and to promote social justice. The study also found that British Muslims are grappling with a number of key issues, including identity, faith, community, and social justice. The study's findings can be used to inform policy and practice in a number of ways. For example, the findings can be

used to develop programs and initiatives that support the needs of British Muslims. The findings can also be used to promote understanding and tolerance of British Muslim culture and values.

Combating Islamophobia on social media is an on-going process that requires continuous adaptation and improvement. Facebook and Twitter have taken steps to address this issue, but challenges remain. By further engaging with communities, enhancing detection mechanisms, and increasing transparency, these platforms can play a more effective role in fostering a safer and more inclusive online environment for all.

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