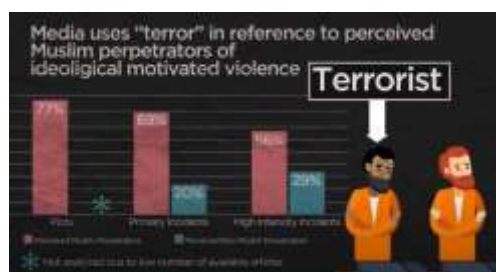


Session 2: Islamophobia

Racist Myths & Skewed Narratives



Pre-workshop:

✚ Watch [How Bad is Islamophobia in Canada?](#) Global News, 2021

✚ Read or watch **at least 2 items** from "Reading & Viewing materials" below, noting any questions.

Facilitator: If possible, invite someone from the Muslim community to join you for this workshop or for a follow-up session to answer questions.

Intro: The goal of this session is to develop a narrative that reflects more accurately the Muslim population of Canada and the Islamic religion, which encompasses many different ethnic groups.

Muslims have been in Canada since the 1850's¹. The first Canadian mosque was constructed in Edmonton in 1938. By 1979, nearly 70,000 Muslims lived in Toronto². The history of Islam in this country is long and not well known. You're encouraged to learn more through the materials at the end of this workshop. The videos here reflect our present reality.

Videos: To watch together as a group

- [Islamophobia is more than hate crimes](#), 3:44 min.
- [The Myth of the Muslim Terrorist](#), 4:20 min.

Small Group Discussion: Break into groups of 4 to 6 to discuss:

- Which parts of the videos did you consider noteworthy/important?
- What was your personal reaction to anti-Muslim racism in our society? What were some of the things that surprised or disturbed you?
- What attitude or attitudes towards Muslims prevailed in the place you grew up? How has this changed over the years?
- What are the Muslim stereotypes in popular culture, both positive and negative?
- What's the relationship between racism, news media, and social media?

¹ [Remembering the First Muslims in Canada](#), AboutIslam.net

² [Early Glimpses of Ramadan in Toronto](#) Muslim Vibe website

We believe in God and what He has revealed to us and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, and their descendants, and what was revealed to Moses, Jesus, and the Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among them...

– Islam, [Qur'án 2:136](#)

All are the sons and daughters of God, good people all, Brothers and Sisters, since created by One Father. No rooted difference is there between them.

– Hinduism ([Bhavishya Purana](#))

Debriefing:

Quotes and discussion questions to promote reflection and action

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1. How did this workshop (including preparation) change your conception of Islam?
 2. How can we help to decrease Islamophobia in our community?
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Suggested Reading & Viewing Material:

- [1001 Inventions, with Ben Kingsley](#), YouTube film, 2020, (13:17 min.) The story of 3 students who thought the Greeks and the Romans had invented everything.
- [1001 Inventions, collection of articles, videos etc.](#), website, UK The science and cultural heritage of the Muslim world.
- [Why Was the Islamic Golden Age Golden?](#), YouTube, 2020, (10:43 min.) The Islamic Golden Age was a period of cultural, economic and scientific flourishing, traditionally dated from the 8th to the 14th century.
- [Soothing Prayer, A Time for Myself](#) (AboutIslam.net) A single mother's appreciation of Muslim prayer as an oasis of peace and renewal in her busy days.
- [Iran and the West](#), 3-part BBC series, YouTube (1 hr) What does politics have to do with it?
- [The Differences between the Major Branches of Islam](#), YouTube, 2018, (10 min.)
- [Riz Ahmed Channel4 Diversity Speech](#) Video (23:24) 2017 Insights from experience.
- [Articles on Islamophobia](#), The Muslim Vibe website Islamophobia in the news.
- [The Muslim Vibe](#), Articles on Life, Faith, Culture, from a Muslim perspective.

Islam in Canada

- [Remembering the First Muslims in Canada](#), About Islam website. Canadian history
- [Early Glimpses of Ramadan in Toronto](#) Muslim Vibe website
- [The History of Muslims in Canada](#), timeline, iHistory Infographic summary
- [A Brief History of the Ismailis in Canada](#), article, 2017 The *jamaat* (Ismaili community) is well represented in business, political and cultural circles.
- [CTV Morning Live, Struggles of Modern Muslims](#), video, 2020 (5:35 min.)

