

## MUSLIM 7/7 POLL

Populus interviewed 1,131 Muslim adults aged 18+ by telephone and online between June 1<sup>st</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 2006. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to be representative of the Muslim population as a whole. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more details go to [www.populuslimited.com](http://www.populuslimited.com).

### MAIN HEADLINES

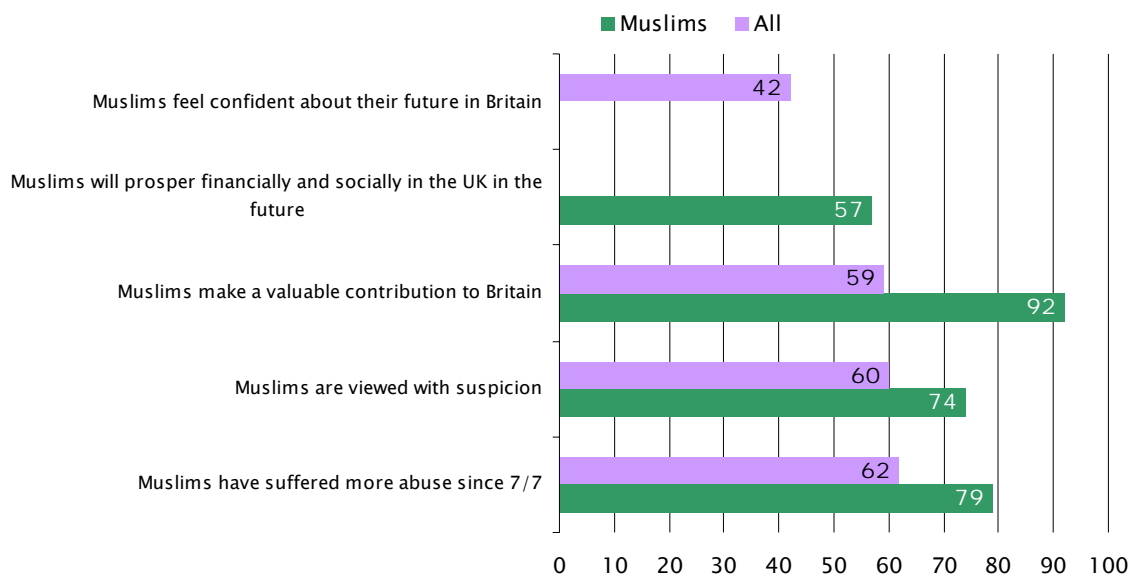
- Four out of five British Muslims (79%) say their community has experienced increased hostility since last July's bombings and three quarters (74%) say that Muslims are viewed with suspicion by their fellow citizens.
- Despite this more than nine out of ten Muslims (92%) say their community makes a valuable contribution to British society, and two thirds (65%) say that their community needs to do more to integrate with it, almost as many as the three quarters (74%) of all Britons who say the same.
- Nearly nine in ten British Muslims (87%) say they have close personal friends who are non-Muslim compared with only one in three of the general population (33%) who say they have Muslims as close personal friends.
- More than half of British Muslims (56%) say that the Government is doing insufficient to combat extremism in its community, a higher proportion than the 49% of the general population who agree.
- A half of British Muslims (49%) say it is acceptable for the authorities to monitor what is being preached in Mosques more closely; an equal number (48%) do not. A half (48%) also think the intelligence services have the right to infiltrate Muslim organisations to gather information about their activities and funding; again an equal number (47%) disagree.
- However four out of five (81%) think it is unacceptable for the Police to view Muslims with greater suspicion on the grounds that the 7/7 bombers were Muslim and only a third (34%) believe that Britain's anti-terror laws are being applied fairly to their community.

- Despite this more than a third (35%) say they would feel proud if a close family member joined the Police while as many (37%) say they would accept it. By contrast three quarters (78%) say they would be angry if a close relative joined Al Qaeda and only 2% say they would be proud.
- On standards of social conduct, as many of the population at large (54%) as Muslims (57%) find public drunkenness unacceptable. Slightly more Muslims (29%) than the general public (21%) say the same about women wearing low-cut tops and short skirts, but both are minority views.
- A narrow majority of Muslims finds displays of affection between same sex couples offensive (44% to 36%) and opinion is evenly divided on displays of affection between members of the opposite sex – 36% find this offensive, 37% do not.
- The greatest social difference between British Muslims and the rest of British society is over the wearing of Islamic dress in schools and the role of women. Three quarters of Muslims (76%) think pupils should be free to wear religious dress whatever a school's uniform policy, by contrast only two fifths of general population (42%) believe the same.
- Half of the population at large (51%) think that Islam treats women as inferior to men, far more than the 31% who think that it promotes more violence than other religions.
- At the same time slightly more than a third of Muslims (36%) say that the values of British society degrade women – though slightly more (42%) disagree. The same proportion (36%) say that British values are a threat to the Islamic way of life, a larger number than the 25% of the public who say that Islam is a threat to the British way of life.
- Though half of Muslims (50%) say that Britain's involvement in the Iraq War was the principal reason for the London bombings and slightly more than this (56%) say that the War on Terror is in fact a War against Islam, only 16% say that the bombers' cause was just, 13% that they should be considered martyrs and 6% that they were acting according to the true principles of Islam.

- Nearly two thirds of Muslims (64%) think that no more than a tiny minority of their community sympathised with the 7/7 bombers and bombings and nearly as many (59%) of the public as a whole believe the same.
- 7% of Muslims believe that suicide attacks on civilians in the UK can be justified under certain circumstances, a figure that rises to 16% if the target is the military.
- Nearly half of Muslims (49%) believe further suicide bombings in the UK are either unlikely or highly unlikely, compared with just 16% of the general population. Among the public as a whole nearly four in five (78%) think a further attack is likely and a third (31%) that it is highly likely.
- The number of Britons (57%) who understand if Muslims take offence at their anxieties when confronted with someone Muslim-looking boarding public transport with a large bag or backpack actually larger than the number of British Muslims (49%) who say they take offence. As many Muslims (48%) think such anxiety to be understandable and around a fifth (18%) say they share it, compared to a quarter of the public at large (25%) who say the same.

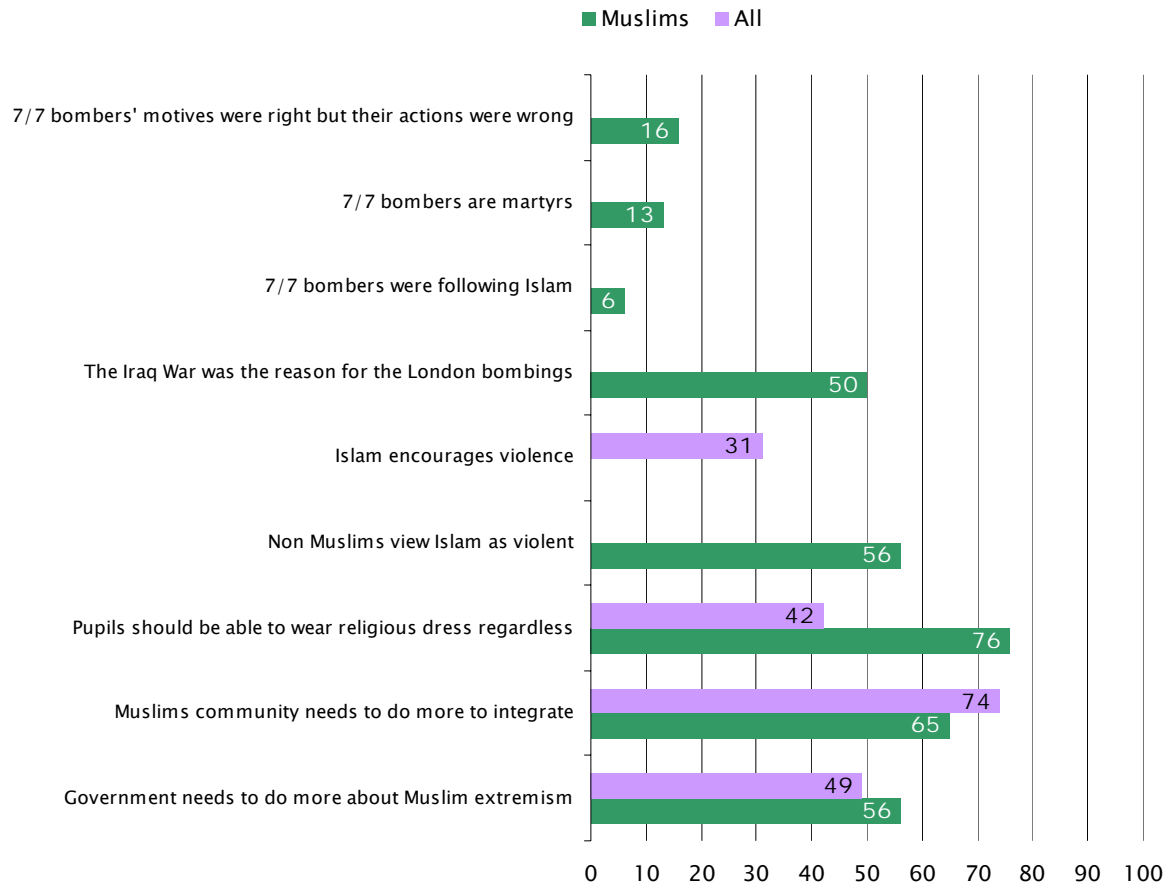
## LIVING IN BRITAIN TODAY

	MUSLIMS			GENERAL POPULATION		
	Agree	Disagree	Net agree	Agree	Disagree	Net agree
Muslims (They) have experienced more abuse and hostility since the London bombings last year	79%	11%	<b>+68</b>	62%	15%	<b>+47</b>
Muslims (They) are viewed with suspicion by their fellow citizens	74%	13%	<b>+61</b>	60%	19%	<b>+41</b>
Muslims (They) make a valuable contribution to British society	92%	3%	<b>+89</b>	59%	18%	<b>+41</b>
Muslims will prosper financially and socially in the UK in the future	57%	17%	<b>+40</b>	--	--	--
They feel confident about their future in Britain	--	--	--	42%	27%	<b>+15</b>



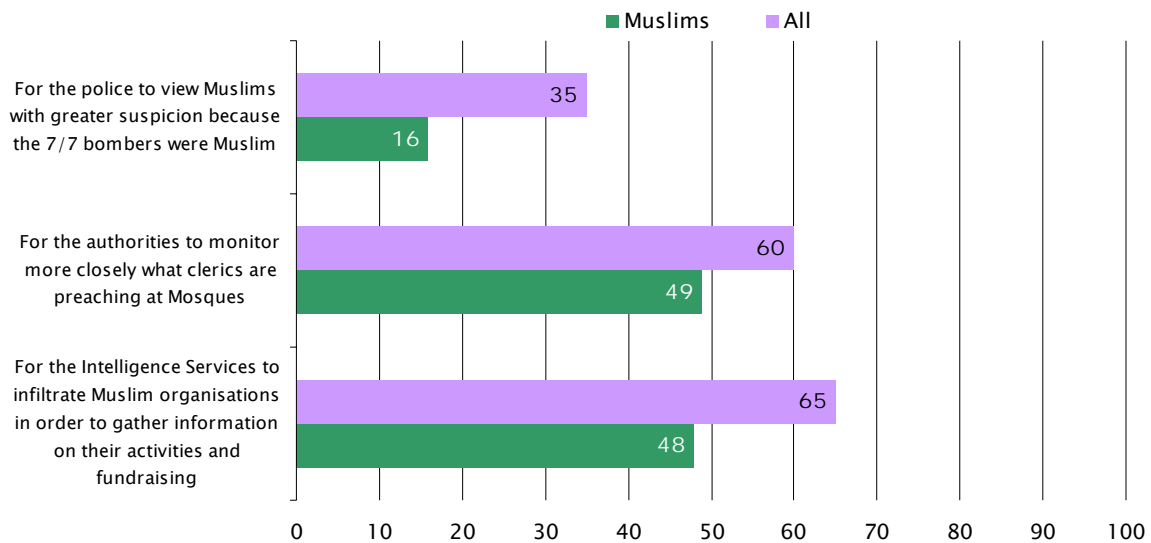
## MUSLIMS AFTER 7/7

	MUSLIMS			GENERAL POPULATION		
	Agree	Disagree	Net agree	Agree	Disagree	Net agree
The Government isn't doing enough to combat extremism in the Muslim community	56%	23%	<b>+33</b>	49%	24%	<b>+25</b>
The Muslim community in Britain needs to do more to integrate into mainstream British culture	65%	21%	<b>+44</b>	74%	11%	<b>+63</b>
Pupils should always have the right to wear religious dress regardless of their school's uniform policy	76%	17%	<b>+59</b>	42%	47%	<b>-5</b>
I believe non-Muslims in the UK view Islam as a religion which encourages violence	56%	36%	<b>+20</b>	-	-	-
Islam encourages more violence than other religions	-	-	-	31%	45%	<b>-14</b>
The British invasion of Iraq was the principal reason for the London bomb attacks	50%	28%	<b>+22</b>	-	-	-
The 7/7 bombers were acting according to the true principles of Islam	6%	87%	<b>-81</b>	-	-	-
The 7/7 bombers should be considered martyrs	13%	67%	<b>-54</b>	-	-	-
The 7/7 attacks were wrong but the cause of the bombers was right	16%	69%	<b>-53</b>	-	-	-

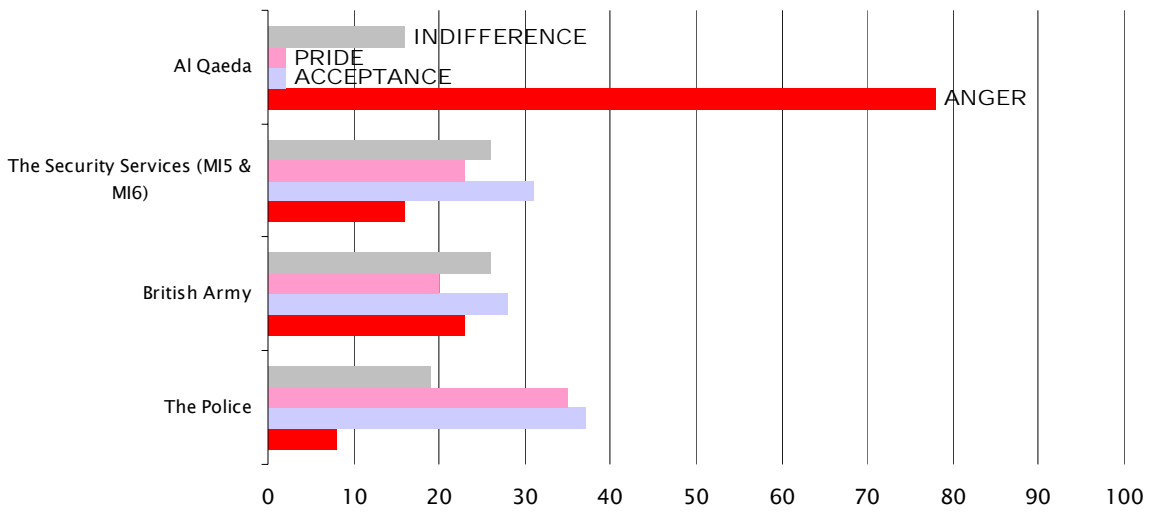


## COMBATING TERRORISM IN BRITAIN

Is it acceptable or unacceptable?	MUSLIMS			GENERAL POPULATION		
	Accept-able	Unaccept-able	Net	Accept-able	Unaccept-able	Net
For the Intelligence Services to infiltrate Muslim organisations in order to gather information on their activities and fundraising	48%	47%	+1	65%	26%	+39
For the authorities to monitor more closely what clerics are preaching at Mosques	49%	48%	+1	60%	32%	+28
For the police to view Muslims with greater suspicion because the 7/7 bombers were Muslim	16%	81%	-65	35%	58%	-23

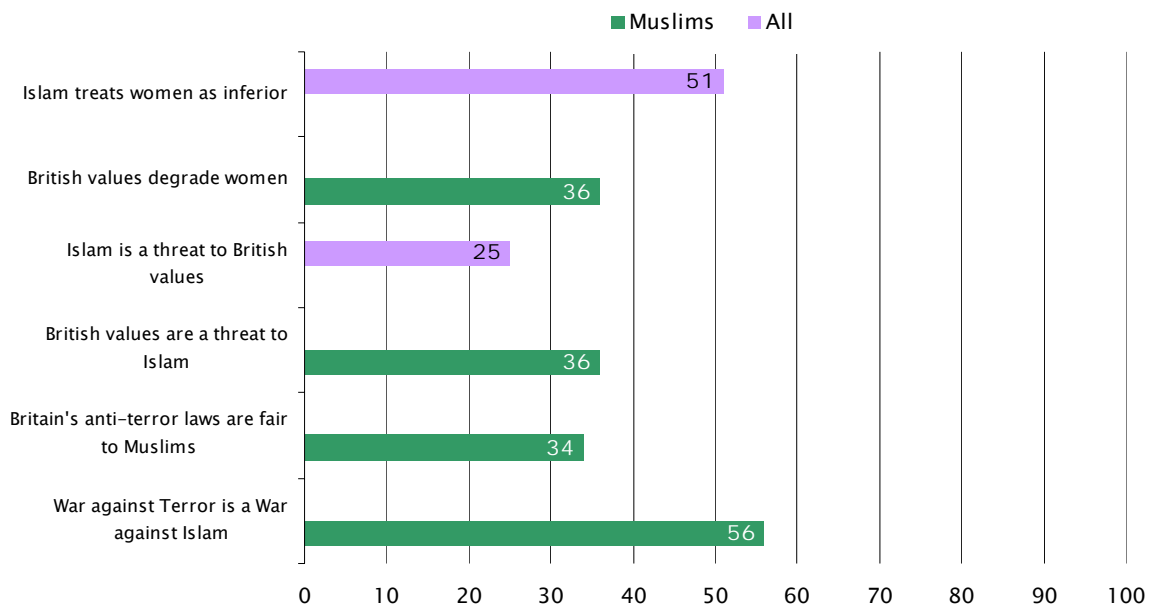


What would your reaction be if a close member of your family chose to join one of the following organisations?	MUSLIMS			
	Pride	Acceptance	Anger	Indifference
The Police	35%	37%	8%	19%
British Army	20%	28%	23%	26%
The Security Services (MI5 & MI6)	23%	31%	16%	26%
Al Qaeda	2%	2%	78%	16%



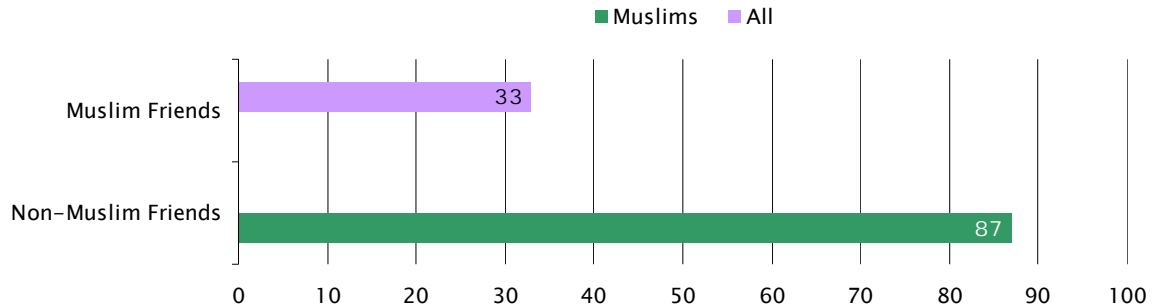
## ISLAM & ITS VALUES

	MUSLIMS			GENERAL POPULATION		
	Agree	Disagree	Net agree	Agree	Disagree	Net agree
The War against Terrorism is in fact a War against Islam	56%	32%	+24	-	-	-
Britain's anti-terror laws are applied fairly to the Muslim community	34%	47%	-13	-	-	-
Modern British values are a threat to the Islamic way of life	36%	44%	-8	-	-	-
Islam is a threat to Britain's way of life	-	-	-	25%	54%	-29
The values of British society degrade women	36%	42%	-6	-	-	-
Islam treats women as inferior to men	-	-	-	51%	26%	+25



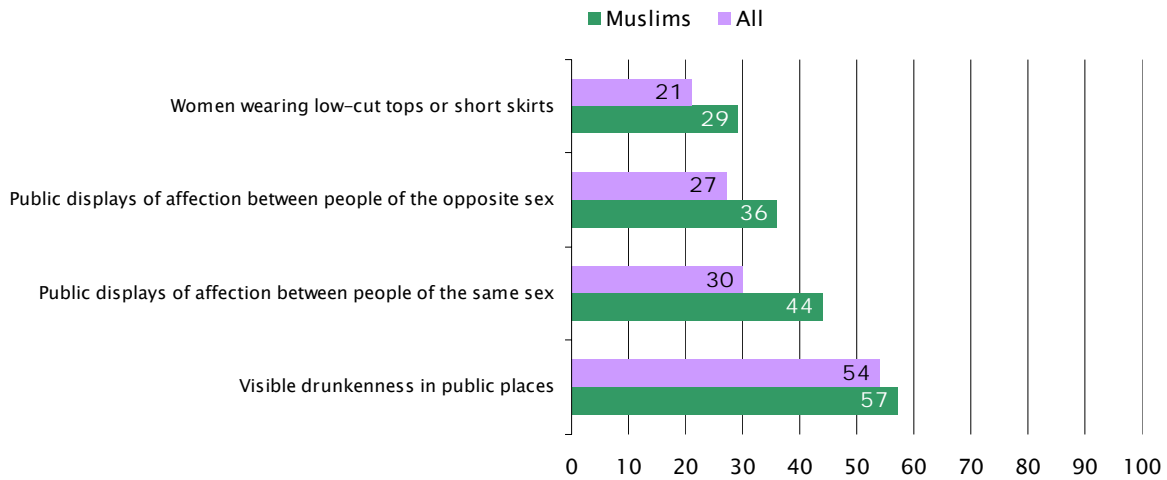
## MUSLIM/NON-MUSLIM FRIENDS

Do you have any close personal friends?	MUSLIMS			GENERAL POPULATION		
	Yes	No	Net	Yes	No	Net
Who are Muslim	-	-	-	33%	66%	<b>-33</b>
Who are non-Muslim	87%	13%	<b>+74</b>	-	-	-



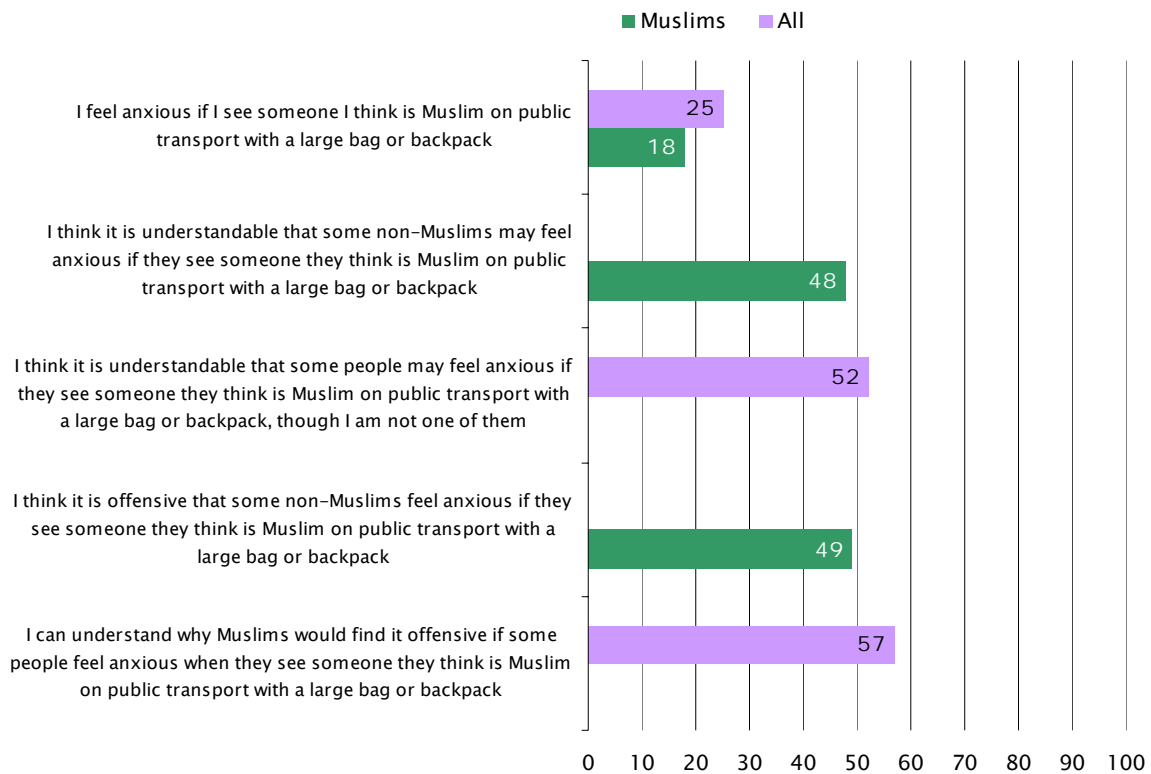
## PUBLIC CONDUCT

The following acts are offensive?	MUSLIMS			GENERAL POPULATION		
	Agree	Disagree	Net agree	Agree	Disagree	Net agree
Visible drunkenness in public places	57%	33%	+24	54%	36%	+18
Public displays of affection between people of the same sex	44%	36%	+8	30%	48%	-18
Public displays of affection between people of the opposite sex	36%	37%	-1	27%	50%	-23
Women wearing low-cut tops or short skirts	29%	44%	-15	21%	52%	-31



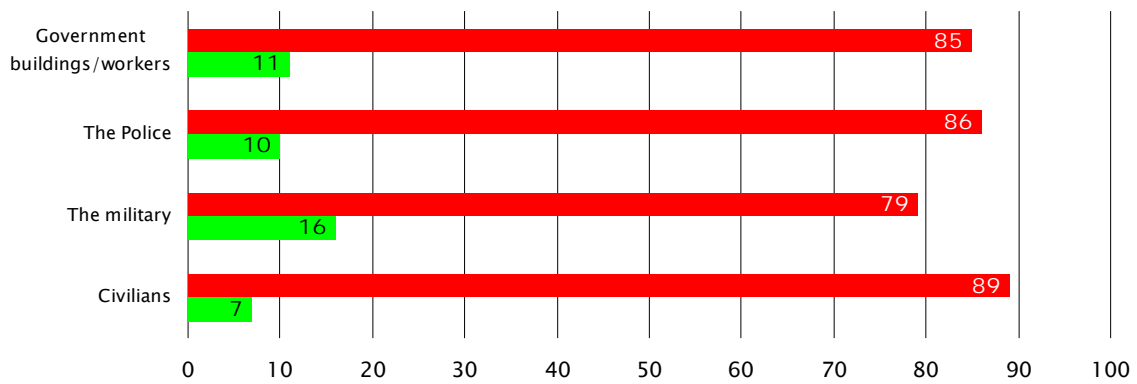
## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

	MUSLIMS			GENERAL POPULATION		
	Agree	Disagree	Net agree	Agree	Disagree	Net agree
I can understand why Muslims would find it offensive if some people feel anxious when they see someone they think is Muslim on public transport with a large bag or backpack	-	-	-	57%	21%	<b>+36</b>
I think it is offensive that some non-Muslims feel anxious if they see someone they think is Muslim on public transport with a large bag or backpack	49%	37%	<b>+12</b>	-	-	-
I think it is understandable that some people may feel anxious if they see someone they think is Muslim on public transport with a large bag or backpack, though I am not one of them	-	-	-	52%	26%	<b>+26</b>
I think it is understandable that some non-Muslims may feel anxious if they see someone they think is Muslim on public transport with a large bag or backpack	48%	37%	<b>+11</b>	-	-	-
I feel anxious if I see someone I think is Muslim on public transport with a large bag or backpack	18%	69%	<b>-51</b>	25%	51%	<b>-26</b>



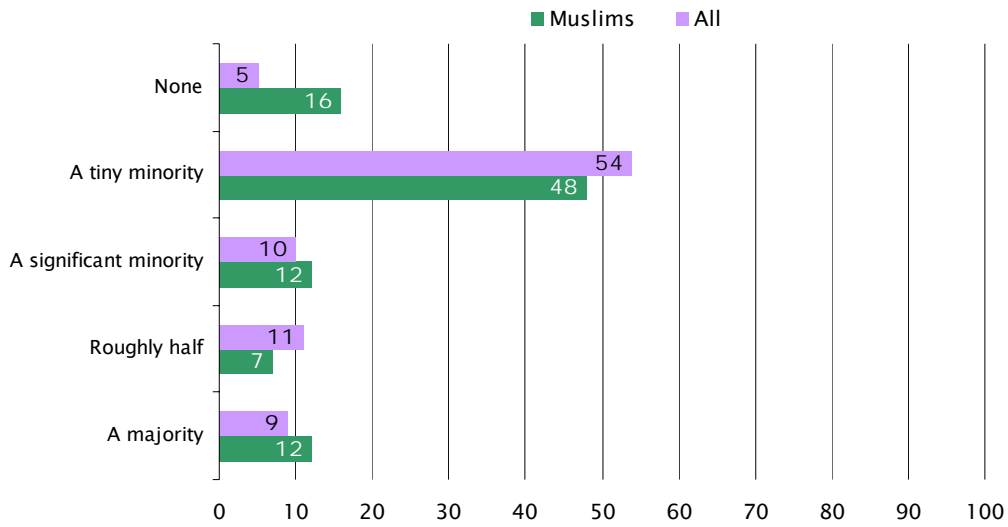
## SUICIDE BOMBINGS

Are there any circumstances under which you think that suicide bombings can ever be justified in the UK against the following types of targets?	MUSLIMS		
	Yes	No	Net
Civilians	7%	89%	<b>-82</b>
The military	16%	79%	<b>-63</b>
The Police	10%	86%	<b>-76</b>
Government buildings/workers	11%	85%	<b>-74</b>



## SYMPATHY WITH 7/7 BOMBERS

	MUSLIMS	GENERAL POPULATION
In broad terms what proportion of British Muslims would you say sympathise with the aims of terrorists behind last year's London bombings?		
A tiny minority	48%	54%
A significant minority	12%	10%
Roughly half	7%	11%
A majority	12%	9%
None	16%	5%



## CHANCES OF A 7/7 RECURRENCE

	MUSLIMS	GENERAL POPULATION
Do you believe that further suicide bomb attacks in the UK are?		
Highly likely	10%	31%
Likely	32%	47%
Unlikely	30%	10%
Highly unlikely	19%	6%

