

# Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Victims of Terrorism

Muslim minority communities in  
Europe

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# Broader Context: the 'New Terrorism'

- Since 9/11, the terminology of the 'new terrorism' has been used by government officials and security experts to convey the sense of an arguably heightened risk from terrorist activity that liberal democratic states face.
- The British government has, in just seven years, introduced four major pieces of counter-terrorism legislation that have, among many provisions, created new criminal offences, extended police powers, and given the Home Secretary indefinite detention powers.

# Muslim Minorities as Primary Victims of Terrorist Acts

- Lots of research exploring the process of victimisation.
- Lots of emerging work regarding the process of victimisation for the victims of terrorist acts.
- Although some consideration has been paid to diversity amongst victims, this requires further development.

# Muslim Minorities as Primary Victims of Terrorist Acts

- Diversity – age, ‘race’/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability.
- Muslim individuals as diverse, however, some identities may predominate over others, serving to influence the experience of victimisation and therefore requiring different responses.
- Service delivery as acknowledging specificity of experience.

# Muslim Minorities as Primary Victims of Terrorist Acts

- Examples of how the identities of Muslim primary victims may be ignored or insufficiently taken into account by responses to their victimisation – ‘belief in a just world’ framework, giving control back to the victim; role of religion/spirituality ? role of culture ? role of ‘race’/religious/gender stereotypes if internalised by victims

# Muslim Minorities as Secondary Victims of Terrorist Acts

- Dependents or relatives of the deceased.
- First responders to acts of terrorism.
- Dependents or relatives of those stopped and searched, arrested, detained, charged and/or imprisoned for terror offences.

# Muslim Minorities as Tertiary Victims of Terrorist Acts

- Public backlashes against Muslim communities, hate crimes against Muslim minorities, Islamophobia
- ‘Ideal Victim’ ‘Ideal Offender’ ideology serving to stigmatise Muslim communities, role of media here
- Fear of violence/intimidation impacting on Muslim minorities’ everyday lives

# Muslim Minorities as Tertiary Victims of Terrorist Acts

- Muslim minorities and victimisation from counter-terror measures
- Muslim minorities' identities being under scrutiny – fear generated by this
- Salafee and Islamist minorities as victims
- Victims as Survivors - Muslim minorities as active citizens
- *Whilst the terms 'primary', 'secondary' and 'tertiary' suggest that there is some sort of hierarchy in the level of suffering experienced, it cannot be assumed that secondary and tertiary victims necessarily suffer less trauma than primary victims, since secondary and tertiary victims can also face significant physical, psychological and emotional pain.*