Islam's Response to

EXTREMISM
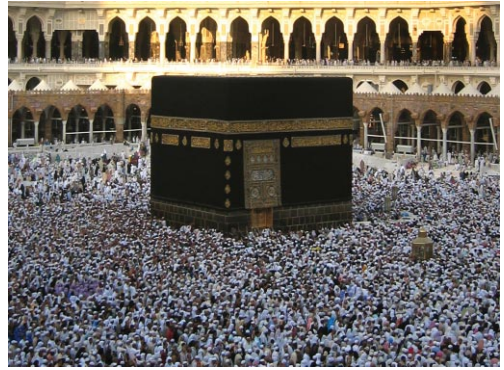
THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM

The Holy Prophet of Islam (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

"Allah will not be merciful to those who are not merciful to mankind."
(Bukhari)

"Kindness is a mark of faith, and who-ever has no kindness has no faith."
(Muslim)

The Holy Ka'bah in Makkah, Saudi Arabia

The horrific actions of extremists, who conduct their brutality in the name of Islam, have led many to question whether Islam advocates terrorism and violence. The truth, however, is that Islam and terrorism are poles apart as there is no justification in Islam for any form of extremism.

Religion is a source of guidance that leads mankind to be at peace with God and with each other. Islam teaches us that all prophets of God and all religions came with the same message of peace. Any action that creates disorder or destruction is completely contrary to the teachings of all prophets and certainly against the teachings of Islam. Therefore, a Muslim is one who strives to be at peace with all around him.

> **Extremism is therefore against all religions and Islam in particular. The very meaning of Islam is 'peace', security and giving a guarantee of protection against all forms of harm.**

DO THE ACTIONS OF EXTREMISTS SUCH AS ISIS FIND ANY SUPPORT IN ISLAM?

No. Islam strongly and unreservedly rejects and condemns terrorism in any form and for any reason, whether committed by an individual, group or government.

In fact, according to Islam, no religion can sanction violence and bloodshed of innocent men, women and children in the name of God, since all religions came from God Who sent His prophets to establish peace in the world.

Islam places an obligation on every Muslim to uphold peace. This concept is so deeply rooted in Islam that the Holy Qur'an describes true Muslims as those who:

> *… walk on the earth in a dignified manner, and when the ignorant address them, they say, 'Peace!'*
> (Holy Qur'an Ch.25: V.64)

Furthermore the Holy Qur'an champions the sanctity of life:

> *… whosoever killed a person … it shall be as if he had killed all mankind; and whoso gave life to one, it shall be as if he had given life to all mankind.* **(Holy Qur'an Ch.5: V.33)**

In his famous Farewell Sermon the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, that God had made the lives, property and honour of every man sacred, stating:

> '… to take anyone's life or his property or attack his honour is as unjust and as wrong as to violate the sacredness of this day, this month and this territory.' (Sihah Sitta)

This leaves no doubt that there is no justification whatsoever for extremism or terrorism in the teachings of Islam.

■ DOES ISLAM PERMIT SUICIDE BOMBING?

No. First and foremost the Holy Qur'an clearly sets out the prohibition of taking of one's own life.

> *… And kill not yourselves. Surely Allah is Merciful to you. And whoso does that by way of transgression and injustice, We shall cast him into Fire; and that is easy with Allah.*
> (Ch.4: V.30-31)

This makes it clear that suicide is forbidden and is condemned by the teachings of Islam. When suicide is used as a mechanism to murder others then it becomes an even greater sin. Suicide bombing, therefore, is an abominable and heinous act that has no justification in the teachings of Islam.

IS IT ACCEPTABLE TO FORCEFULLY CONVERT OTHERS TO ISLAM?

No. The Holy Qur'an is very clear that mankind has a free choice in the matter of religion.

There should be no compulsion in religion. Surely, right has become distinct from wrong… (Ch.2: V.257)

Muslims are encouraged to spread the message of Islam peacefully with respect and love. The Holy Qur'an is very clear that each person is free to follow or change the faith of his or her choice. Moreover, if someone does not believe in God, they have a right to hold that view and cannot be forced to change or be punished in any way for that. According to Islam man is accountable for his beliefs to God alone. Muslims are reminded in the following verse of the Holy Qur'an that God has truly granted freedom of religion to all:

'And if thy Lord had enforced His Will, surely, all who are in the earth would have believed together. Wilt thou, then, force men to become believers?'
(Ch. 10: V. 100)

This shows that Islam upholds freedom of religion for all and those who perpetrate evil, seek only to fulfil their selfish interests and their distorted views have no basis whatsoever in the faith of Islam.
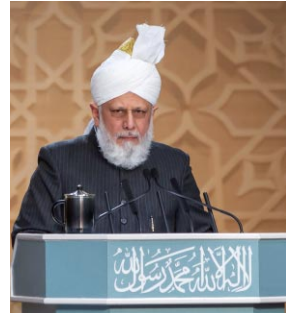
The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community conducts national campaigns against extremism and stands in solidarity with all victims of extremist attacks.

Solidarity walk on Westminster Bridge, London, in 2017, in the aftermath of the terrorist attack.

THE KHALIFA OF ISLAM: A MAN OF PEACE

His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, is Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. His Holiness has continually advocated the peaceful teachings of Islam and has condemned acts of terrorism and extremism in various addresses throughout the world, including the UK Parliament, EU Parliament and the US Congress in Capitol Hill. A few extracts of his speeches are presented below.

"Those who fight wars in the name of religion are wrong when they say that they are fighting due to their relationship with God." (London, 13 November 2010)

"…we must unite in our efforts to end all forms of extremism and prejudice, whether religious, racial or of any other kind."

(The 16th National Peace Symposium, Baitul Futuh Mosque, London, 9 March 2019)

"Islam is often branded an extremist religion that incites violence, and it is also alleged that large numbers of Muslims are disloyal to their countries, or seek to spread disorder within society. However, I consider such allegations to be false and unjust. Even though so-called Muslim terrorists claim to act in Islam's name, I do not believe that we are witnessing a religious war; rather, the wars being fought and atrocities committed are only for geopolitical gains. The so-called Jihadi terrorists and extremist clerics serve only to tarnish the name of Islam and undermine the efforts of the vast majority of Muslims who are peaceful and law-abiding citizens. Unquestionably, from the outset, Islam has rejected all forms of extremism." *(The 15th National Peace Symposium, Baitul Futuh Mosque, London, 17 March 2018)*

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK strives to remove misconceptions about Islam in the media across the UK. Some of its work is presented below.

Leicester Mercury
Leicester Muslim community asks world to unite against extremism

Hartlepool Mail
Hartlepool Muslim community condemns 'barbaric and inhumane' London Bridge terror attack

THE COURIER.CO.UK
'We will stand with you' – Ahmadiyya community condemn Manchester and London attacks

LONDON LIVE
Ahmadiyya Muslims hold special prayers for terror victims

British minority Muslim community prays for Paris
AFP

World Religion News
GLASGOW'S AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY LAUNCHES PEACE CAMPAIGN UNITED AGAINST EXTREMISM.

UNITED AGAINST EXTREMISM
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK   www.MuslimsForPeace.org.uk

UNITED AGAINST EXTREMISM

www.LoveForAllHatredForNone.org

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK

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www.UnitedAgainstExtremism.com