

In today's world **terrorist groups**, who claim to be true to Islam, abound. Al Qaeda, Islamic State, Al Shabab, Boko Haram and Hamas are some of the more commonly known ones, but multiple other groups operate throughout the world. Acting with murderous brutality **their existence understandably gives rise to a widespread belief that Islam itself is a violent religion with little regard for human life.**

But Islam broadly makes a strong claim: *'So called "Islamic terrorism" is not Islam. Islam is a religion of peace. 'Jihad' is mostly about the inner struggle to be virtuous and submissive to God. Life is sacred, and can only be taken under certain strict conditions, such as for self-defence'. Non-Muslims are protected and supported well under Islamic governance carried out correctly.'*

Does such a strong claim match up with reality? If the existence and activity of terrorist groups are separated out from 'true Islam', what otherwise happens in the Islamic world? Are the human rights of Muslims and non-Muslims upheld? Is the sanctity of life honoured? Is peace for all the outcome?

There is no doubt that the Quran and Hadith do contain some writings that seem to promote such things as freedom of religion (eg Sura 2:256), and respect for human life (eg Sura 5:32). **Sadly though, there are also many verses from the Quran and Hadith which espouse violence toward non-Muslims, the subjugation of non Muslims, the removal of freedom of religion, and the minimization of human rights** (eg Sura 9:29 & Sahih Al Bukhari 3017), and this oppressive mindset is well represented in the Islamic world, even apart from Islamic terrorist groups, and not least through Islamic governments.

Iran has a Shia Islamic government. They sponsor and support Hamas and Hezbollah to kill Jews. They act according to their belief that Israel needs to be destroyed for their saviour figure, the Mahdi, to return. They enforce

strict dress codes. They imprison, torture and execute any of their own people who oppose them. They make leaving Islam punishable by death. They severely restrict Christians and other religions.

The Islamic government of **Afghanistan** will not allow other religions to operate. They kill apostates. They severely oppress women. They deny them education and work, impose the Niqab, and lately have even passed laws that prevent women from speaking loudly in public.

In the Islamic kingdom of **Saudi Arabia** all citizens are considered Muslim. Public Christian churches are banned. Leaving Islam is banned. Christian migrant workers are banned from sharing their faith.

Among Muslim majority countries around 22 of them criminalize apostasy, with about 12 stipulating the death penalty. **This is not freedom of religion! This is not a religion of peace!**

Muslim majority **Sudan** is currently in the throws of a civil war between 2 Islamic forces. Both sides in the conflict have violently attacked Christians, brought back oppressive laws against non-Muslims, and acted to forcibly convert Christians to Islam.

Muslim majority **Pakistan** has 'blasphemy laws' embedded into their legislation. This has placed non-Muslims in a state of constant threat of being accused of 'blasphemy' against Islam.

An Australian Islamic scholar, Abdullah Saeed, who argues that Mohammad did promote freedom of religion, and good treatment of non-Muslims, acknowledges this about current Islamic Governments:

'Unfortunately, many Muslim-majority countries have failed to follow the prophet's example. Muslims in these states face penalties for blasphemy, heresy and, most famously, apostasy. Non-Muslims are barred from proselytizing and possessing or importing unsanctioned religious items, including Bibles. They

face restrictions on the public practice of religion and strict limits on the building or renovation of places of worship. The government monitors their religious activities, raids private services and sometimes harasses or imprisons non-Muslim believers simply for practising their faith.'

The problem with many Islamic governments however is not just with how they oppress non-Muslims. There is also an issue with how they fail to protect non-Muslims from either Islamic terrorism, or discrimination and aggression by Muslim groups & individuals.

Coptic Christians who make up 10% of the population In **Egypt** routinely experience being attacked by extremists, unprotected by the Islamic government.

The new Islamic government in **Syria** has failed to protect Christians from Islamic violence. A report by the *Syriac Strategic Research Center (SSRC)*, October 2025, presented **"verified evidence of killings, vandalism of churches, desecration of cemeteries, intimidation, forced displacement, and state-sanctioned discrimination."**

Focusing on **Pakistan** again, in 2023 scores of churches and Christian homes were looted, desecrated and burned in riots, after false 'blasphemy' accusations were made against 2 Christian men. In its report, the Pakistani Human Rights Commission noted that **Imams from various mosques played a big role in instigating the violence.** The report also noted the failure of police and government administration to stop the mob violence.

The 'Eternal Word Television Network' (ETWN) reports that around **1000 women from religious minorities are abducted each year in Pakistan, and forced to marry Muslim men and convert to Islam.** The report indicates that the police, courts and even women's refuges, act with indifference to the plight of these women.

Even if it were to be accepted that Islamic terrorist groups are not truly Islamic, the evidence is clear that Islam still

generally promotes or condones violence, does not uphold religious freedom, and minimizes human rights.

This is only further indicated by the following ongoing realities of Islamic practice in today's world:

- Child marriage.
- Female genital mutilation (FGM).
- Polygamy (multiple wives).
- Honour killings.
- High levels of interpersonal violence (IPV).
- Buying and selling of domestic servants.
- Civil wars.
- Radicalization of Islamic youth.
- Desecration of churches.
- Violence against ex-Muslims.

The following are quoted from various research papers:

"In general these studies found high prevalence levels of IPV among Muslims living in the US and globally... Studies on beliefs about IPV found that there tended to be higher leniency and justification of abuse in Muslim cultures, than is the western norm. Muslim men across the board tended to justify abuse more than Muslim women, except when the wife had an affair."

"Approximately 80% of global FGM cases are attributed to Islamic populations.... The study confirms that FGM correlates with the influence of Islamic doctrine, which supports the practice."

"The evidence that Muslims tend to have more fundamental beliefs than other religious groups suggests that Muslims may be more susceptible to what Pech and Slade term the 'terrorist meme' – an ideal expressing selective interpretation of the Quran that is spread throughout the Islamic world. In this way, fundamentalist beliefs may act as a facilitator for religious terrorism."

"Centrally religious civil wars are disproportionately an Arab Muslim phenomenon."

"In studies examining more than 140 countries, it was found that polygamy is significantly associated with decreases in indicators of national security and stability."

"We find that 1. countries with greater Muslim populations are likely to experience more suicide attacks, 2. Countries with greater Sunni Muslim populations are likely to encounter more suicide attacks. ... The overall analysis suggests that Islam is positively associated with suicide attacks..."

"Persecution of more than 1000 persons is present in 40 percent of Muslim majority countries compared to 3.9 per cent of Christian majority countries."

"According to a study investigating 67 honor killings in Europe 1989-2009 by psychologist Phyllis Chesler, published in the *Middle East Quarterly* journal, 96% of honor murder perpetrators in Europe were Muslim and 68% of victims were tortured before they died."

"Those who leave Islam face, at best, significant challenges due to rejection and worse by their former faith community. Many choose to keep their abandonment of the tenets of Islam a secret, and feign some level of continued observance where they must to keep up family or social obligations, because they know full well the ostracism and even violence that they would face if it became known. Those who become open will typically face violence and extreme harassment from a range of sources – close or extended family, friends and the wider society at large. The behaviours they face can be relatively petty on one level (forms of economic boycott), or they can in some cases be extreme campaigns of intimidation, violence and even murder ('honour killings')."

Dear Muslim,
You may believe Islamic terrorist groups
do not present 'true' Islam,
but even apart from terrorism,
Islam oppresses society,
and does not bring about human flourishing.

Come to **Jesus.**



Terrorism & True Islam

