

Islamophobia: The Issues And Challenges Faced By Muslims

Dr Ramatu Ussif¹ and Dr Kasim Salifu²

1 Anadolu University , Graduate School of Social Sciences, Department of Business Administration (Finance), Eskişehir, Turkey
ramatussif@gmail.com / ramatuussif@anadolu.edu.tr

2 Istanbul University , Graduate School of Social Sciences , Department of International Relations and Political Science, Istanbul, Turkey
kasimsalifuf@gmail.com

Abstract: *This article was discussed taking into consideration racism, discrimination, maltreatment, hatred for Muslims and killing of innocent Muslim especially among the west. The article also investigates the purpose and meaning of Islamophobia, the causes and effects of Islamophobia, why are Muslims and Islamic religion been attacked worldwide and drivers of hatred and prejudices against the Muslims. The article briefly reviews the introduction, concepts, terminologies, challenges, causes, and effects of Islamophobia and prejudices across the world with particular attention to the developed countries. The study found the purposes of Islamophobia to include: Hate for the Islamic religion, seeing Muslims as a terrorist, hate women in hijab/niqab and seeing Muslims not united. While the causes of Islamophobia include: increase in the population of Muslims, Islam becoming the dominant religion soon, the preaching/teachings of Islam, Call to "salat"/"adzan", the rate at which people convert to Islam and the influx of Immigration. Furthermore, the increase in the Muslim population, hatred for the "deen" are the reasons why Muslims are been attacked to minimize Islamic believers population. The researcher recommends that to move from Islamophobia to Islamophillia, Muslims should educate the world especially the western what Islam entails and the need to be peaceful and loving to all humanity without discrimination as the Noble Quran taught. They must understand that a brother is a fellow brother to the other notwithstanding colour, race, religion, etc. this I believe can change the negative perceptions and think of the non-believers.*

Keywords— Islam, Islamophobia, Muslims & non-Muslims, challenges, hatred, Racism.

1.0 Introduction

Muslims across the world face challenges and maltreatment in both Muslim country, non-Muslim countries and secular states. The case of Islamophobia has been on the increase since September 11, 2001, and this brought about lots of discrimination to the Muslim group, racism, hatred, physical and non-physical attacks, hate speeches, anti-Muslim campaigns, killings, and molestation of the Muslim ummah. Islamophobia started since time immemorial thus 1980s /1990s which has to do with the hate of Islam and Muslim and having a conception that Islam is enemy (Lopez, 2011). It is emerging fast through hatred and misunderstanding for the religion and its followers. These act of Islamophobia in the world comes differently and at different places to the followers of Islam. The attacks happen in mosque, schools, workplaces and the public. Islamophobia in the mosque is attacks that happen in the mosque whilst the Muslims are praying example is the recent case of New Zealand. Muslims have no freedom of worship neither do they have their human rights and liberties. Also, Muslim women in hijab are seen as slaves and no recognition for them. They were only recognized as housewives. During the time of the Prophet Mohammed (S.A.W/PBHU) in the year 800 C.D Muslim women enjoy their right (Shirvani, 2006). Stadibaur, (2012) indicated that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) use to help his wives in the kitchen and cleaning of their house as part of love and parts but not slaves. In some of the cases, the Muslims are denied access to their assets, goods, and services including monies. Muslim in Afghanistan, Syria, Palestine, Somalia, Yemen, and Iraq all faced similar situations. Islamophobia in schools and workplaces is where Muslims face outright rejection, suspicions, attacks, stigmatization, and mockery by their colleagues and employers. The fact that you believe in Islam, you have no say in classrooms and your workplace because Muslims are always the minority in most of the places. Women in hijab are not regarded and they are been disrespected because of their choice of religion. Due to the abuse and attacks against Muslim women, some of the women now are fighting for their right example the right to vote, right to be involved in decision making, their right to property, reproductive right and so on. One of the Islamic countries that women are seriously fighting for their rights is Afghanistan rights (Mohibullah & Kramer, 2016). According to Oja & Yamin, (2016) some of the rights that the women are fighting for include: their inheritance right and reproductive rights. Finally, Islamophobia in the public comes in a form of indirect discrimination, indirect denial of public goods and services, hate speeches about Islam. Aligning Muslims to be terrorists is like accusing other religions such as Christianity, Buddhist, and Hindus for colonialism, world wars and the like. No religions are free nor clean of terrorism. Even the current attack at the New Zealand mosque was caused by non-Muslim but the media continues reports and complain about Islam terrorist and nothing else. Islamophobia must come to an end and the end to Islamophobia is now.

2.0 Research Problem

The increase in racism, stereotyping, attacks and killing of the Muslims worldwide motivated this study to find out why Islamophobia, what are the causes/effects of this anti-Islamic acts. Also, the hatred and prejudices of the Muslims among the westerners are on the rise especially in the United States, France, United Kingdom, and Germany. Muslims are suffering in

Afghanistan, Burma, Palestine, Syria, Yemen, and Iraq. The killing, molestation, physical and non-physical attacks keep on alarming for no reason nor fault of the Muslim ummah. This study on the Islamophobia: challenges and hatred Muslims ummah faced looked at the reasons for this Islamophobia, the causes Islamophobia, the drivers of the hatred and prejudices among the Muslims and what can be done to reduce the situations if not eradicated. These were the knowledge gap motivating this study to find remedies to this social and political issues.

3.0 Research Objectives

The purpose of this research is on Islamophobia the challenges Muslims Ummah faced.

The specific objectives of the article include:

- To examine the purpose and meaning of Islamophobia
- To investigate the causes and effects of Islamophobia
- To examine why Muslims and the Islamic religion are been attacked
- To access the drivers of hatred and prejudice against the Muslims ummah

4.0 Research Questions

The overarching research question is Islamophobia the challenges the Muslims ummah faced.

Specifically, the below research questions were answered to complete the article:

- What is the purpose and meaning of Islamophobia?
- What are the causes and effects of Islamophobia?
- Why are Muslims and the Islamic religion been attacked?
- What is driving hatred and prejudice against the Muslims Ummah?

5.0 Related Literature Review

5.1 Definition of Terminologies

5.1.1 Islam

Another meaning of Islam literal is to surrender to God. According to Zepp Jr (1992), the literal meaning of Islam is Submission Allah's will in peace. Islam is built from Qur'an and Hadiths which preaches peace, love, understanding, and tolerance to all humanities not violence.

5.1.2 Muslim

The followers of Islam who believe Allah is one (Oneness of God), His Prophets and Angels, Day of Resurrection, Destiny and the Books revealed by Allah to the various prophets which are: Psalms to David, Torah to Moses, Gospel to Jesus and Qur'an to Muhammad (S.A.W).

5.1.3 Deen / Din

The word "deen"/ din is an Arabia word meaning religion. Both Muslims and Christians use it and it has three general senses of custom, judgment, and religion.

5.1.4 Adhan

Adhan is an Islamic word referred to a call to prayers.

5.2 Countries Experiences of Islamophobia

Muslims in different countries in the world experience attacked, killing, hatred, discrimination, molestation at different times. Below are some countries experiences.

5.2.1 Islamophobia in United-Kingdom (UK)

In 2017, several findings on cases of Islamophobia in United-Kingdom has been recorded. This indicated that there are rising cases of Islamophobia, hate, and discrimination among the Muslim ummah.

5.2.1.1 Hate Crimes in the U.K.

Since 2013, there has been a rise in the number of hate crimes in the country (UK) and this was due to the murder of the Britain soldier called Lee Rigby by a self-identifying Muslims. In the same year, reported a case of hate crimes was 193 including murder and ten attacks against Muslim mosques In July 2014 and 2015 respectively, more than 800 anti-Muslim bias crimes were recorded in Lone alone against the Muslims. That is a 70 percent incensement in such attacks. Researches show that a Muslim is 12 times likely to be victimized than Christianity and other faiths in London by hate crimes. Also, other researches including chief police officers Association, 50-60% of all hate crimes reported in Britain are against Muslims. Again in one university in London, two men aged 39 and 41 respectively attacked a Muslim woman and remove her hijab/niqab. This is uncalled for and un-Islamic.

5.2.1.2. Mosques in the U.K.

Islamophobia continues to rise in the UK. The anti-Muslim sentiments and hatred is alarming and leads to so many oppositions in the construction of new mosques and even stopping the existing ones from operations. The plan in 2010 to construct the largest mosque of Europe in London was abandoned and the proposal terminated by the officials after some people petitioned the

government in protecting. The Muslims call to the prayer (adhan) was a source of serious tension in the United Kingdom. In 2015 several people demonstrated in the UK against the construction of new mosques and even not in favour of the existing ones. In 2008, there was again issue/problem of Oxford central mosque that the imams are broadcasting calls to prayer daily and the Oxford mosque decided not to pursue the calling to maintain peace. Conflicts of interest existed between the western and the Islamic religion (Cloud, 2004). Hence a lot of unbelievers disapprove things they do not know of or things they never understand.

5.2.1.3 Employment Discrimination in the U.K.

There is discrimination in the employment sector of the UK. Muslims in the UK faced high unemployment rate both the men and women. According to research in 2016, Muslims struggle high unemployment. The rate of unemployment nationally is 5.4 percent while the British Muslims faced 12.8 percent. With the same educational level and language skills, the Muslims are 71 percent more unlikely to be employed as to their Christian counterparts. The Muslims who are employed are more in the low skilled labour market like security guards, machine operators, taxi drivers, waiters and the like.

5.2.2 Islamophobia in the U.S.A.

Across the world, there are numerous record number of Islamophobia and hate crimes. Also, there are findings of the United States with a rise in Islamophobic and high explicit Islamophobia. As part of USA Islamophobia, the president of the United States implemented a ban on travel to six different Islamic countries namely: Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen and this has been a case of contention in the court which nothing positive will come out of it.

5.2.2.1 Islamophobia at the workplace in the U.S.A.

Muslim women are discriminated against at the workplace and denied to wearing their hijab. Most of the women in hijab at workplaces were fired due to wearing headscarves. Female teachers' schools (public & private) were refused by the authorities to use hijab.

5.2.2.2 Islamophobia at Schools in the U.S.A

Muslim girls in private and public school have been attacked, harassed and assaulted. Even the parents of some students who visit their kids in schools are assaulted. Most students were denied their rights of the headscarves usage during supports in school example: extra curriculum activities.

5.2.2.3 Islamophobia at Law-Enforcement -Agency USA.

Muslim women are denied using hijabs in the courtroom. Even in the prisons yards, there is Islamophobia where the females were asked not to cover their hairs. Family members visiting their family in jail and courthouses are denied wearing the hijab. Powell (2011) indicated that a lot of people in the U.S.A lack understanding of the "Deen" (Islamic religion) and they have a strong hatred for Religion and Muslims. These people could be politicians, media men and women, leaders and some of the citizens.

5.2.2.4 Islamophobia in public places in the U.S.A.

There is Islamophobia in open public. Example, in the shopping mall, parks, swimming pools women in hijab are denied access. In public bus Muslim women in headscarf faced attacks and hatred. Also, men who have long bears are been attacked and tease at. It is not easy and no freedom to expose your religious identity in the United States. Discrimination and hate speeches are everywhere in the public against Muslims and Islam.

5.2.3 Islamophobia in Germany

5.2.3.1 Hate Crimes in Germany

The rise in anti-Muslim hates in Germany started since World War 2 ending and these could be linked to the rise in the immigration of African and other Muslims into the country. There is high of hates and anti-immigrant sentiments by the people, especially among the Muslims. The asylum seekers who were more than 1 million and Germany took them were also attacked severally on their shelter that's in 2015. There were a lot of hate crimes by some of the citizens to prevent illegal entry into the country. Firearms were used. From 2013 to 2015 crime rate increased to 87 percent. Researches also suggested that religious biases and hate crimes against Muslims have also risen in the country. Recently. The German authorities are arresting several extremist organizations who are executing anti-Muslim hates and attacks and those planning to do similar. Four of the extremist "Old School Society," group leaders were also arrested in May 2015 because of explosives possessions. They were planned allegedly to use those explosives in attacking local mosques, a shelter of refugees and Muslims.

5.2.3.2 Mosques in Germany

There are about 200 "prayer rooms" in Germany. The majority of Islamic associations are registered and funded by fees and donations; some receive foreign funding. Germany has no legal restrictions on mosques; however, political opposition has often put pressure on Muslims to make various concessions regarding the visibility and prominence of their houses of worship. On the other hand in Germany, Muslims have complained more about the high rate of hate crimes against mosques. The period from 2012 to 2014, more than 70 attacks against mosques were made by the non-Muslim Germans. In summer 2015, attacks were suspected in the country in three (3) distinct locations. Such attacks and violence could affect the congregants and religious belief practices. Also, mosque minarets and the muezzin calls to prayer was banned and these raised a lot of questions as to whether it is legal or illegal to call for prayers and also if it is par with the ringing of the church bells.

5.2.3.3 Employment Discrimination in Germany

It was very difficult for Islamic believers and far that matters Muslims to get good employment in Germany. This is due to due religion and ethnicity. The few who got the jobs also faced serious Islamophobia, discriminations, hatred at their workplaces. Majoring of these working Muslims experiences denials of religious activities performance including attending Friday congregational prayers and the women were also denial to wear their hijab meanwhile there is no national law in the country that restricts women covering their hairs nor observing prayers. However, the employers' biases and hate leads to this against employing prospective who use the hijab or headscarf. A research found that only 3 percent of employers/businesses invite Muslim applicants who use the hijab for interviews and 18 percent of the employers/ companies invite people with German Surnames who are non-Muslims. There was also an instance where two teachers in German were denied using their head scarfs.

5.2.5 Islamophobia in France

Islamophobic ideas circulated in France and other the western countries such as Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany, Greece, Czech Republic, Portugal, Hungary, Poland, etc. several types of research indicate the hate of Islam in France especially among the women in Hijab. A Muslim in hijab publicly in France is seen as against the France secular values.

5.2.5.1 Hate Crimes in France

There was an increase of 11.3 percent of hate crimes in 2012 as compared last year. Approximately 226 anti-Muslim hate crime was recorded by the office of the law enforcement said the U.S. States Department. Majority of these anti-Islam/Muslims hatred is targeted against women due to the Islamic dress of most of the victims. This Muslim attire is the right of the women and there should be freedom of worship and human rights. For example in Paris, two men attacked a pregnant woman in and hijab and attempted to remove it from her. Four days after she was assaulted, the women had a miscarriage. Recently in 2015, there was an attack which is a terrorist attack French satirical magazine in Paris and it associated with an increase in the number of anti-Muslim hate crimes reported. 133 hate crimes were recorded in 2014 and more than 400 such bias incidents in 2015.

5.2.5.2 Mosques in France

There are a lot of voices in France against mosque projects despite the court rulings in favour of the construction of a mosque, there are still oppositions against that. There were complaints from the area residents, businesses all against the mosque construction. The call of prayer was abandoned and flashing blue light was used to call for prayers. Muslim leaders reported that there were rejections of the proposal concerning constructions of new mosques by the French officials and this leads to overcrowding in the already existing mosque in the country and they continue to close the active mosques they viewed as a source of violent extremism.

5.2.6 Islamophobia in Sweden

5.2.6.1 Hate Crimes in Sweden

Sweden is also without Islamophobia and hate crimes. The non-Muslim Swedish were obsessed and secured the increasing number of Muslim Population in the country. All south of crime was associated with Muslims in the country. For example, criminality, sexism, nativity, radicalization, rape, undemocratic thinking, terrorism, bombing and integration all are given the Muslim angel. In Newspapers, TV shows, social programs, debaters, artist, politicians, interfaith activities, academics, schools personnel, comedians. Right-wing Christianity, leaders, etc. are all active participant in a continuous discourse about Muslims and having negative impressions about Muslims and the Islamic religion. About 300 Anti-Muslim hate crimes were reported in 3013 and between 2010 and 2014, the Muslims attack in the country increased in number to 81 percent. Interestingly, the majority of these hate crimes are targeted toward Muslim women practising or using the headscarf (hijab). Also, these crimes, in general, is targeting the Muslim assets, communal property like the mosques, etc. 66% mosques in the country receive bomb threats and they were subjects to vandalization and arson in 2016. This was an increment of 26 percent from 2011 when about 40 percent of the mosques in the country suffered such attacks.

5.2.6.2 Mosques in Sweden

The rate at which the hate for mosques and bombing in the mosques is so alarming in Sweden. Statistics which was compiled in the country indicated that there are only 26 built mosques purposely for the Muslim worship but the majority of the Muslims end up praying in the basement mosques due to fear because most of them were subject to attacks. Most of the mosques in Sweden were attacked and targeted. In 2015, there was also an attacked against the Charlie Hebdo which include highly publicized hate crimes. The attacks and violence as part of the Muslim hate crimes have resulted in a series of hates and majority of the Swedish Muslims population suffered injuries and others in critical condition. After the bombing of the mosques by the terrorist, another mosque in the country received a bomb threat where the person stated that "the mosque is soon going to blow". These hate crimes have a serious effect on the Muslim to freely exercise their religious rights and the majority are afraid of the hate crimes. Much is not said by the leaders concerning these attacks and terrorist by the non-Muslims. There are anti-Muslim hates and discriminations on the media, Facebook and Twitter pages. More than 14 different Mosques were vandalized by the hates and attacker terrorist in the country.

5.2.6.3 Employment Discrimination in Sweden

Sweden is another centre for Islamophobia. Muslims are denied jobs by employers. The few who managed to get jobs too are been discriminated against. Muslims who used the hijab, growing beards or praying mostly encounter discrimination and hatred by their employers. Several types of research indicated that the Swedish government do not gather data that is linked to religious or ethnicity. Upon the challenges that the Muslims are facing regarding, employment, discrimination, hatred, and attacks all the government is silent concerning it. Due to this, the Muslim Organization Network in Sweden Complained that their government does not attach seriousness to the issues of discrimination they are going through that was in February 2013. The organization proceeds further to issue a report to the United Nations Racial discrimination committee with an example of acts of intolerance against the Muslims which are related to misperception, discrimination, anti-terrorism law, etc. women were denied usage of the headscarf on television during presentations and on a religious racial.

5.2.8 Islamophobia in other Countries

Majority of the Islam countries in the world faced Islamophobia some of the countries are: Syria, Somalia, Egypt, Afghanistan, Palestine/Israel, Iraq, and Yemen. Also, there is Islamophobia in other non-Islamic states such as New Zealand, Rohingya / Myanmar. The current Islamophobia this year is one at New Zealand, on Friday, March 21, 2019, Christchurch's Al Noor Mosque was attacked during prayer time by a non-Muslim and 50 Muslims were killed in a gunshot by a terrorist. This led to the closedown of the mosque.

5.3 Empirical Review of Literature

The research of others was reviewed empirically both their findings and results to give a better understanding of this particular paper. Many empirical pieces of research attempted to measure Islamophobia. A British research and social policy agency (Runnymede Trust) defined the eight negative categories and perceptions people / non-Muslims hold about Muslims and the Islamic Religion to include: Islam not dynamic, no values in common to other culture, less superior, as terrorism, political ideology, the west critics rejected discriminating practices, Muslims attack considered normal (Kandel, 2006). Similarly, Kevin Dunn (2005) conducted a study on the causes of Islamophobia in Australia in the year 2005. In their study found out that, 67 percent of the respondents indicated that, they had never interacted with Muslims while 30 percent said they rarely do that. 37 percent interacted and communicated with the Muslims people and 23 percent confirmed that, occasionally they deal with the Muslims. Only 10 percent said they do that a lot.

6.0 Research Methodology

This article briefly reviewed the introduction, concepts, terminologies, challenges, causes, and effects of Islamophobia across the world. Taking into consideration Islamophobia in the United States, UK, Germany, France, Syria, Burma / Rohingya, Palestine, Iraq, New Zealand, etc. The study strictly relied on secondary sources by reviewing and analyzing other works on the subject matter. Islamophobia is racism type that affects and worries all concern Muslim across the world. There is much interest in this area of study since the pain, discrimination, hatred, racism, negative utterance about Islam is linked to all Muslims and the Islamic religion.

7.0 The Reasons/purpose of Islamophobia

Many reasons existed for Islamophobia across the world. The purpose varies based on the country. Among the reasons are:

- To end the Islamic Religion
- Hate for Muslims especially Muslims in a headscarf
- Muslims not united
- Seeing Muslims as a terrorist.

8.0 The Causes and Effects of Islamophobia

From the review, several factors cause Islamophobia. Some of the contributing factors are:

- Increase in population of Muslims
- Islam becoming the dominant religion soon
- The preaching of Islam
- The teachings of Islam
- Call to prayer (adhan) and prayers (salat)
- The rate at which people convert to Islam
- The influx of Immigration

These causes have effects to the Muslim Ummah and the religion (deen). It makes women scared and afraid of being attacked. Most Muslim women complained that they are not using hijab because of the fear that, they will be harassed and teased by the public and unbelievers. In countries where there are too much Islamophobic, the men are very afraid to show their identity.

Muslims are afraid to take their children to school, the children cannot pray while in school and the teachers also ended up indoctrinating the kids. The mosque in the communities Muslims is afraid to pray inside due to terrorism and attacks.

9.0 Why Muslims and Islamic Religion are been Attacked

There are numerous reasons why Muslims and their "deen" is always on attacks especial in the western world.

- Islam considered being inferior
- The "deen" Islam is viewed as violence religion
- Islam is referred to as Radical religion
- Islam is seen as supportive of terrorism
- The religion of Islamic is seen to be an aggressive one.
- Islamic culture is seen differently among others in the world.

10.0 Drivers of Hatred & Prejudice against Muslims

- Increasing Muslim Population
- The Muslim women's dress code
- The sayings and teachings of Islam
- Lack of support from other Islam Countries.

11.0 Remedies to the Causes of Islamophobia

To stop/end Islamophobia in the world, the below must be taken into consideration.

Increase in population of Muslim: Muslims population must continue to increase until they become the majority in the world. Looking at the rate at which Islam is growing at the fastest rate it is possible and that is what the western world is foreseeing.

Islam becoming the dominant religion soon: If the population increase for sure Islam becomes the dominating religion and the voices of the Muslim men and women would be heard. The cry and fear of the women would be dealt with. Also, Muslim men, women, and children would be free from molestation and attacks. When Islam becomes the dominant religion, the world would be peaceful without harm.

The teaching/preaching of Islam: Islam is preaching peace and love for one another. The world itself is anti-peace with each other. The Noble Quran & hadiths all preaching peace among all and love for one another and hatred for none. No discrimination and hate crimes among one another. It is what the west is against. When all Muslims practice peace and love for fellow Muslims, the hatred worldwide & discriminations of the Muslims would be stopped.

Call to prayer (adhan)/prayers (salat): Non-Muslim and unbelievers of Islam are of the view that the Islamic call to prayers which is referred to as "azan" is a nothing but noise making. They mentioned time without a name that, Muslim should prayer without the call to prayers. For example, recently in Ghana, a member of parliament and a minister made mentioned in the country that, Muslim make noise by waking the neighbours' up every day and this is regarded as nuisances. He further proposes that Muslims in Ghana should use text messages by sending to their members to come for prayers. He is a Christian, but forgot Christians play music, dance and sing every day in churches and that is noisier than even the "azan". Though Muslims are less in the country, yet still the Muslims were able to fight for their rights.

The conversion rate to Islam: The more people converted to Islam, the more the increase in the Muslim population. This will give Muslims strength and support with time. The strength of the Muslim ummah would be towards helping build strong Muslim forces & youth, and fight for Muslim brothers and sisters in pain and harassment and against all sought of hate crimes and discrimination in the world.

Islam considered to be Inferior: Yes, it is true that Islam is seen as inferior in the world due to the population and how Muslims comport themselves. Muslims are divided and do not like one another. For instance, the Saudi Muslims are not in compromise with Yemen Muslims and the Dubai Muslims cannot also comprise with the Iraq Muslims. This is what is making the west not recognize Islam because the religion and the believers are divided. The time to stop this inferiority to Islam is now and all Muslims must agree to this and work for hand in hand.

Islam is seen as supportive of terrorism: Terrorist attack Islam now and then and Islam is referred to as terrorism. This is due to the low voices of Muslim and the population currently. If another individual committed a crime the person is treated in person and not tagged to his religion. But if a Muslim committed a crime is everywhere in the media and the case is treated as the Islamic religion and not the person involved. This is serious hatred for Islam and Muslims as a whole. This must be addressed by the Muslim leaders quickly.

Islamic culture is seen differently: Muslims life differs from other cultures. Most of the cultures in the world look similar but Islam has a unique and proper way of doing things. The life of the Muslim is guided by the Quran and the Hadiths. Unlike other cultures.

The Muslim women's dress code: The way a Muslim should dress is specified in the Quran. Muslim women must dress in a certain way according to the teachings of the Holy Quran. In Islam, Muslims believe that women wearing hijab are their

religious rights and obligations. The verses in the Qur'an that explains this further are Suratul al-Noor, verse 31 and Suratul al-Ahzab, verse 59. The first surah entreats women to conceal their bosoms and adornments while the second surah to the wives and daughters of the Prophet Muhammad and the wives of his followers; they are to wear long garments while in public to be recognized and to avoid molestation. The third verse of hijab in the Qur'an is Surah al Ahzab, verse 53. So, therefore, no western culture should influence the Women who believe in this and are practising it. It is their right and the right of every woman must be protected.

No Support from other Islamic Countries: Islamic countries are many and most of these countries are rich. If the richer countries will support the poor or weaker ones, Muslims and Islam will be strong and stronger and no forces against them will succeed. For example, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Oman, Turkey, should unite as one and build a strong integration to help protect other sister countries, the world is afraid of Islam and Muslims and not the negative utterances, prejudices, hate and attacks.

12.0 How to Fight Islamophobia in the World

- Muslims across the world becoming as one people (togetherness)
- Supporting each other (country to country). A well to do country should support the poor Islamic countries and poor Muslims.
- Avoiding racist among Islamic countries and Muslims. There should be no discrimination based on ethnicity, colour, race, etc.
- A Muslim seeing a Muslim as a brother (love and affection) for Islam sake.
- Muslims loving their own culture. Islamic religious culture is beautiful and all Muslims must learn to love it and appreciating one another no matter the difference.
- Muslims speaking the truth. Truth must be said no matter what is the judgment.
- Anti-hypocrisy among Muslims. Muslims are their enemies. If Muslims can stop the hypocrisy and focus on development and support, the better for the religion and the believers.
- Killing one another. The act of killing oneself by a fellow Muslim must be stopped. For example, leaders killing subordinates, chief killing innocent souls all in the name of Sharia but not following exactly what the Sharia law says is one of the biggest sin and mistakes Muslims are committing. There should be a stop to these acts.

13.0 Significance of the Study

The general understanding of the aims and purpose of Islamophobia is known

Policymakers can find possible solutions to ending Islamophobia from this study

14.0 Researchers Comments

The world especially the western have a negative perception and prejudices about Islam and see Islam as a religion that is made up of the following characteristics:

- The Islamic religion is a religion of terror and that Muslims especially men are terrorists.
- The Muslim believers in Islamic dress (hijab/Niqab) and who are through believers are attacked and molested.
- Both the national and international media misrepresents Muslims and the Islamic religion. There are lots of wrong and falsehood information about Islam, Muslim and their practices across the world.
- There are legal implications and consequences of being a Muslim male with bears across the world, especially in the west.
- Majority of the people in the world are ignorant about what Islam is and the teachings of Islam and so they come up with their fake thinking and perceptions.

14.0 Summary

Yes off course Islamophobia is on the increase in the world. There are some many causes and drivers of Islamophobia as indicated above. Muslims must unite and put a stop to this because a lot of women and children in some of this high Islamophobic country like Palestine, Yemen, Afghanistan, Somalia, Burma, and Iraq are suffering and is the Muslims that can come to their aid. Due to harassment and discrimination worldwide, some Muslim women are likely to change their culture and follow the western world culture. Some Muslim women are again likely to change their way of dressing to become anti-hijab due to the western attacks and utterance to fit western society. They may change their habits, activities, and appearances, way of life, thinking about what is deemed or they think is socially acceptable. In that regard, religious freedom and worship may be compromised or lost completely. Religious discrimination worldwide as indicated above can be categorized to include: The increasing number of anti-Muslim hate crimes, more particularly against women in headscarves.

Religious discrimination by employers at workplaces and in colleges. This discrimination in most cases is more pronounced against Muslim women in hijab. Rejection of proposal towards mosque building and opposition to mosque construction projects. Hate speeches by leaders and followers about Islam and Muslims in the media worldwide and affiliating Islamic religion with terrorism. In the USA, UK, Germany, France and other countries, for instance, anti-Muslim hate crimes are disproportionately impacted on Muslim women in hijab. Again, it is also true of employment discrimination and general

discrimination and hatred among Muslims with the Muslim women, in particular, experiencing barriers to securing a good job which in effect makes most of them economically disadvantaged people and other vulnerable in the western society. These realities of Islamophobia was indicated in this study and other researches were, we observed a real gap between legal protections in theories against what is exactly been practised. The Muslim minority groups go through a lot in their communities as in practice. Theoretically, each of the Islamophobic countries has enacted laws and principles that protect the rights and freedom of religion. But in practices, however, it is not the case. Competing interests of some countries most of the times supersede these laws. Several countries have imposed legal restrictions on the religious dress and rights of individuals over the past decades, some of the laws specifically targeting the Muslim women's hijab and niqab. Yet still majority of the women are facing discrimination in schools, workplace, and at the public. There are also national and international authorities to sanction acts of terror that involves attacks and violent extremists but does not favour Muslim men, women and the Islamic religion.

15.0 Conclusion

This article provides ways and means of moving from Islamophobia to Islamophilia by trying to remove misconception and bad beliefs concerning Islam. The racism, terrorism, and stereotypes affiliated to Islamic religion are fabricated and must be dealt with. The tagged of Muslims with terrorism renders them to a serious threat. The challenges Muslims are facing must be turned into opportunities to help the coming generations and protect them from those sorrows. The article was also engaged in the analysis of various religious freedom challenges facing the Muslim across the world with some cases from the U.K, U.S.A, and Germany etc.

Despite the laws in the countries to protect the rights and freedom of the various religions, these measures are not in favour of Islam and Muslims. The Muslims are disappointed in almost all the above countries. The anti-Muslim discrimination and hatred are on the increase. Discrimination at the workplace, discrimination at jobs selection, unfair treatment of the employed, attacking mosques and Muslim women in hijab, men in Islamic dresses, rejections of mosques construction projects and terminating proposals to construct new mosques.

Several reasons accounted for Islamophobia in the world including an increase in immigration of the Muslims to Europe as a refugee. The west is afraid of insecurity and an increase in unemployment among their citizenry. Muslims continue to suffer abuses, hatred, and attacks worldwide in the name and interest of ensuring so-called national and global security while the interest of the Muslims is not important and seen as a secondary issue. The apparent hatred of Muslims and the religion keeps growing.

16.0 Recommendation

The article offers better ways of dealing with racism, hate speeches, anti-Islam campaign, discrimination and killing of Muslims. Again, it makes a good contribution towards understanding how Muslims can help non-Muslims to stop the prejudice, fear of the Muslims and change their stereotype and appreciation of Islam and Muslims. Finally, it will help build a positive relationship, mutual respect, and cooperation between different religious groups internationally.

17.0 References

- Cloud, D. L. (2004). "To veil the threat of terror": Afghan women and the clash of Civilizations: In the imagery of the US war on terrorism. *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 90(3), 285-306.
- Definition of Islamophobia - Oxford Dictionaries Online (US English). (n.d.). Ox
- Greene, N. (n.d.) September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks 9/11 Attacks. Retrieved April 23
- Mohibullah, H. & Kramer, C. (2016). "Being true to ourselves within the context of Islam": Practical considerations in hijab practice among Muslim women in America women. *Practical Matters Journal* (9), 102-117.
- Oja, L., & Yamin, A. E. (2016). "Woman" in the European human rights system: How is the reproductive rights jurisprudence of the European court of human rights Constructing narratives of women's citizenship? *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law*, 32(1), 62-95.
- Poole, Elizabeth. "Change and Continuity in the Representation of British Muslims before and After 9/11: the UK Context". *Global Media Journal- Canadian E*, 4(2). 2011: 49-62 Web. 19 Nov. 2013.
- Powell, K. A. (2011). Framing Islam: An analysis of U.S. media coverage of terrorism since 9/11. *Communication Studies*, 62(1), 90-11210.1080/10510974.2011.533599.
- Stadlbauer, S. (2012). A journey to a "Pure Islam" Time, space, and the resignification of ritual in post 9/11 faith testimonies of Muslim women. *Narrative Inquiry*, 22(2), 348-365. doi:10.1075/ni.22.2.08sta.
- Shirvani, S. (2006). Culture and the role of women: The case of Muslim women in Muslim countries. *Conference Papers -- International Communication Association*, 1-16.
- The Holy Quran and Hadiths
- The World's Muslims: Unity and Diversity". 9 Aug. 2012. Web. 10 Dec. 2013