

Discussion Questions about Great Britain

1. After hearing this program, what do you think are the reasons why youngsters of Arab or Asian origin, but born in Britain, often choose to identify themselves first as “Muslims” instead of “British”?
2. Is there a difference between Muslim British and non-Muslim British citizens in terms of unemployment, political participation, housing and poverty?
3. Which aspects make it difficult to integrate as a Muslim and become seen as fully part of British society? Many Muslims are born in England. What makes the English think of them as being “foreigners”?
4. Which elements of Western society do Islamic radicals oppose? Does the majority of Muslims in Britain adhere to radical Islam?
5. In the show, Poggioli reports about racial intolerance and the fact that unless they have British citizenship, Muslims are seen as foreigners. What aspects do you think trigger this racial intolerance toward Muslims?
6. What does the British man from Bradford, Yorkshire, expect from Muslims in Britain? (Contextualize and explain his words to the students: “We pay for them... They should accept our laws... They should learn our language... They should dress like us...”)
7. We heard about and saw pictures of women wearing a hijab (headscarf), establishments with Arabic signs, male-only cafes...Are these in your sense:
 - Expressions of the right of each individual to choose and live according to his/her religion and culture, the right to keep their roots alive?
 - Expressions of non-integration in society?
8. Sylvia Poggioli explains that many Muslims live in separate, enclosed, underprivileged societies. What do you think are the reasons for this? (e.g., the location of Muslim schools and mosques; the presence of people from the same background, speaking the same language and being able to give information on specific needs as a foreigner/Muslim in Britain; the presence of ethnic shops; neighborhoods with low-cost housing attracting unemployed and low-paid people, etc.)
9. Do you have the impression that in the US:
 - There are the same kinds of social issues related to the Muslim population, to immigrants or to other communities?
 - There is the same kind of racial intolerance towards the Muslim population, toward immigrants or other communities?
 - There is the same kind of resentment within the Muslim community, immigrant or other communities?