



Consequences of Islamophobia for Britain Muslim Women Based on Moral Panic Theory

Ali Sabbaghian¹, Mohammad Sadegh Koushki¹, Hamzeh Safavi¹
Ali Mohammad Khaksar^{2*}

1. Assistant Professor, Department of Regional Studies, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.

2. Graduate of Master of Regional Studies, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.

Citation: Sabbaghian, L., Sadegh Koushki, M., Safavi, H., & Khaksar, M. (2021). Consequences of Islamophobia for Britain Muslim women based on moral panic theory. *Journal of Woman and Culture*, 12(48), 69-82.

DOR: 20.1001.1.20088426.1400.12.48.6.1

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 10.03.2021

Accepted: 30.05.2021

Corresponding Author:

Ali Mohammad Khaksar

Email:

m.khaksar1990@gmail.com

Keywords:

Islamophobia
Muslim women
Moral panic theory

Abstract

The research was intended to study the consequences of Islamophobia for Britain Muslim women based on the moral panic theory. The statistical universe included whole Muslim women of England and the under study sample subsumed the immigrant Muslim females. The research was designed as descriptive- analytical. By implementing library method (note taking on index cards) the data on basic concepts of Islamophobia, anti-Islamism and hostility against Islam, based on the moral panic theory were identified, collected and analyzed. The results indicated that Islamophobia alteration to hostility against Islam was the consequences of cultural and identities issues based on the moral panic theory. The most frequent violent attacks against Muslims in England targeted the Muslim female whom wore veil and "burqa". These symbols indeed were the certain indications of being Muslim in England and even in all over Europe. The Muslim women most likely had neither any roles in extremist and terrorist actions of the Muslim fanatics in Europe nor in the Islamophobia transformation to hostility against Islam and had no any participations in none of such actions. However, the Muslim women played significant role in Muslims population increasing, but the occasional terrorist actions in Europe and specifically in England were carried out by men Muslim and the women Muslim had no any roles. Considering the financial crisis as one of the significant factors in Islamophobia commutation to hostility against Islam that correlated directly to the incrementing population of the immigrants in Europe, the Muslim men as Muslim women played almost similar roles while the non-Muslim population reactions towards this issue mostly injured the Muslim women.



Extended Abstract

Introduction: The alteration from Islamophobia to anti-Islamism in Europe (specifically in Britain) during 9/11 and the extremism after it coincided with issues such as the growing Muslim population in Europe and Europe's economic problems provoked reactions from European governments and citizens. These reactions led to violence against Muslim immigrants when such problems went hand in hand and intensified. Created under the influence of British thought and policies, the term sought to create unfounded fear of Muslims and spread anti-Islamism and hatred in the world. One of the issues that had been included in the topic of anti-Islam and was in accordance with the theory of moral panic was the hijab of women. According to the theory of moral panic, veiled Muslim women had a situation in which the hijab was considered a symbol of terrorism. The theory of moral panic has elements such as; Hostility, an exaggeration in statistics and distortion of reality, worry, consensus, spreading and believing rumors, changing responses over time, diverting public opinion from attention to other important problems that this study tried to address. The research was intended to study The consequences of Islamophobia for Britain Muslim women based on the moral panic theory.

Method: The statistical universe included whole Muslim women of England and the under study sample subsumed the immigrant Muslim females. The research was designed as descriptive- analytical. By implementing library method (note taking on index cards) the data on basic concepts of Islamophobia, anti-Islamism and hostility against Islam, based on the moral panic theory were identified, collected and analyzed.

Results: The results indicated that Islamophobia alteration to hostility against Islam was the consequences of cultural and identities issues based on the moral panic theory. The most frequent violent attacks against Muslims in England targeted the Muslim female whom wore veil and “burqa”. These symbols indeed were the certain indications of being Muslim in England and even in all over Europe. The Muslim women most likely had neither any roles in extremist and terrorist actions of the Muslim fanatics in Europe nor in the Islamophobia transformation to hostility against Islam and had no any participations in none of such actions. However, the Muslim women played significant role in Muslims population increasing, but the occasional terrorist actions in Europe and specifically in England were carried out by men Muslim and the women Muslim had no any roles. Considering the financial crisis as one of the significant factors in Islamophobia commutation to hostility against Islam that correlated directly to the incrementing population of the immigrants in Europe, the Muslim men as Muslim women played almost similar roles while the non-Muslim population reactions towards this issue mostly injured the Muslim women.

Conclusions: Overall, Britain, which had been the provoker of Islamophobia commutation to anti-Islamism, was found to had caused the most violence against Muslim women, according to the theory of morality. In fact, Britain, in view of its interests and goals, sought to make things more difficult for Muslims, especially women, after 9/11 by using the hijab as a symbol of being Muslim. Accordingly, control and reduce the Muslim



population, which was growing by women. On the other hand, by calling Muslims terrorists or blaming them for Europe's financial crises, Britain tried to increase the feeling of hostility and hatred towards Muslims. And used this opportunity to limit this group. Therefore, Britain and European countries, by introducing the symbol of hijab and chador to identify being a Muslims, inflicted the greatest blow on Muslim women and inflicted a lot of injuries on this group.

Author Contributions: Dr. Ali Sabbaghian: designing the general framework. Dr. Hamzeh Safavi: content editing. Dr. Mohammad Sadegh Koushki: collaboration in designing the overall framework and concluding. Ali Mohammad Khaksar: content analysis, submission and correction of the article and responsible author. All authors discussed, reviewed, and validated the final manuscript.

Acknowledgments: The authors offered thank to all the participants in this study.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declared there is no conflicts of interest in this article.

Funding: This article did not receive any financial support.