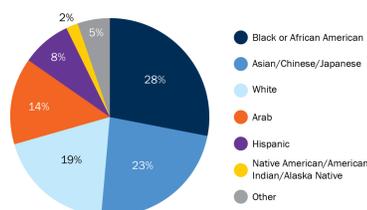


RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDERS SUPPORTING MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

1. **Celebrate and support diversity.** Muslim communities are incredibly diverse: Black, White, Asian, Arab, Latino, Native American, foreign-born and US-born, rich, poor, well educated, under-educated. Understand and acknowledge this diversity. Engage and support different Muslim communities and different voices within Muslim communities.

Muslims Most Ethnically Diverse Faith Community



Are you of Hispanic origin or background? Do you consider yourself White, Black or African American, Asian, Arab, Native American, Pacific Islander, mixed race or some other race? Base: Total Muslim respondents, 2019

2. **Consider Americans who are Muslim as just that - American.** There has never been an America without Muslims or Islam. They were early explorers, enslaved Africans and immigrants from around the world. A full half of Muslims in America today were born here and nearly 90% are American citizens. Muslims, rather than being foreign, are part of the diverse fabric of American life. While supporting new Americans is important, so is supporting American Muslim communities.
3. **Muslim Communities were disproportionately impacted since 9/11. In the post 9/11 era Muslims have been** seen through a security lens. Yet, Muslims are the most likely faith group to reject violence against civilians with American Muslim leaders and organizations consistently and repeatedly condemning violence and denouncing violent ideologies.

Muslims, Jews, and Non-Affiliated Most Likely to Reject Individual Attacks on Civilians

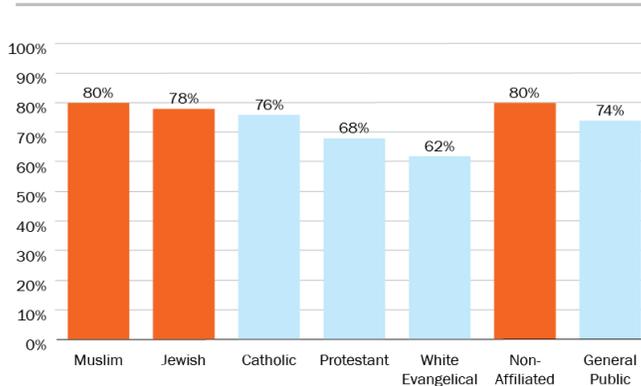
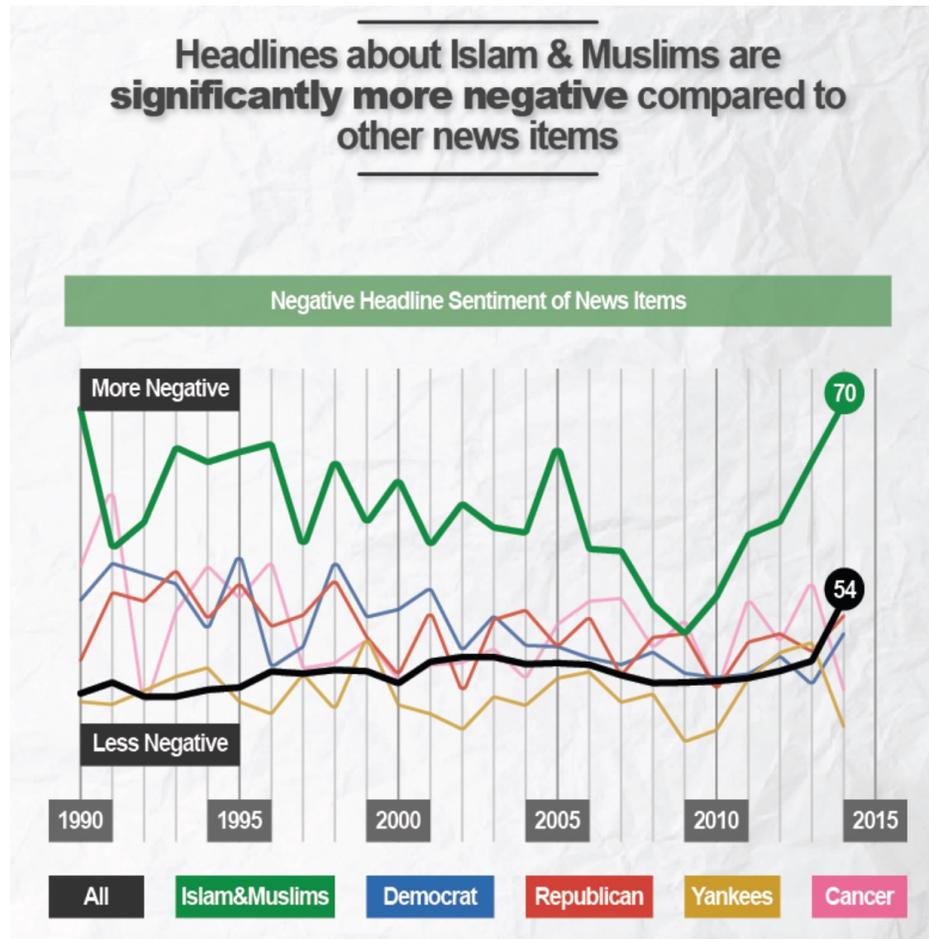


FIGURE 6: *Some people think that for an individual or a small group of people to target and kill civilians is sometimes justified, while others think that this kind of violence is never justified. Which is your opinion? (% Never justified shown) Base: Total respondents, 2018*

4. **Support civil rights while also moving beyond it.** Toni Morrison noted that racism is a distraction. Because of the very real and pressing nature of civil rights violations against Muslims and the need to fight bigotry, resources are more often put towards this very real need than put towards community development efforts. As a funder, consider a more holistic approach. Support towards both is very much needed to build thriving, resilient communities.
5. **Muslims in America are at an intersection of Religion/ Ethnicity and Race.** While a religious group, Muslims are also racialized. Avoid seeing Muslims purely through a religious lens and rather see and support them as a diverse and racialized community. Consider that we cannot work towards Diversity, Equity, Inclusion or Justice without investing in uplifting and including the American Muslim Community.
6. **Support capacity building.** The Muslim nonprofit landscape is quite young with many organizations springing up in the post 9/11 era (although there are many notable organizations that have been around far longer). It is important as a funder to recognize this and to support the capacity building of the sector.
7. **Be aware that Islamophobes are at work.** A well-funded, large network of Islamophobic leaders and organizations has successfully smeared numerous Muslim leaders and organizations. A cursory look on the internet may raise false red flags that could lead to misguided decisions about funding. Be aware and look beyond the internet when considering funding Muslim organizations and leaders.

8. **Increase media literacy.** Studies have shown that media coverage of Islam and Muslims in the US is largely and disproportionately negative. One [study](#) by 416 Labs illustrated that even the New York Times covered Islam and Muslims more negatively than cancer and cocaine over a 25-year period. Be aware of this, educate yourself, and don't be afraid to challenge what you read or hear.



9. **Muslim Communities are Robust, Complex and Diverse - as are their Needs!** Consider investing in the diverse Muslim communities as a part of your organizational mission and mandate Work towards empowerment and well-being, rather than a response to a specific incident or event. Recognize the importance of early intervention for long term benefit and be proactive about identifying and supporting needs beyond the headlines in order to help Muslim communities reach their potential.
10. **Americans that are Muslim are complex human beings, and their motivation is complex. Don't assume religion is the driver** of their behavior.