

Most Canadians view Muslim community as a “partner”, not “problem” in fight against radicalization

However, 73% also say Muslim community leaders aren't speaking out enough against homegrown terrorism

November 26, 2014 – The majority of Canadians see the Muslim community in this country as a partner in the fight against radicalization, but also say Muslim community leaders need to do more to denounce acts of homegrown terror.

These are among the findings in the third and final part of a comprehensive survey on radicalization and homegrown terrorism by the Angus Reid Institute (ARI) – in partnership with the Province (part of the Postmedia Network), the Laurier Institution and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

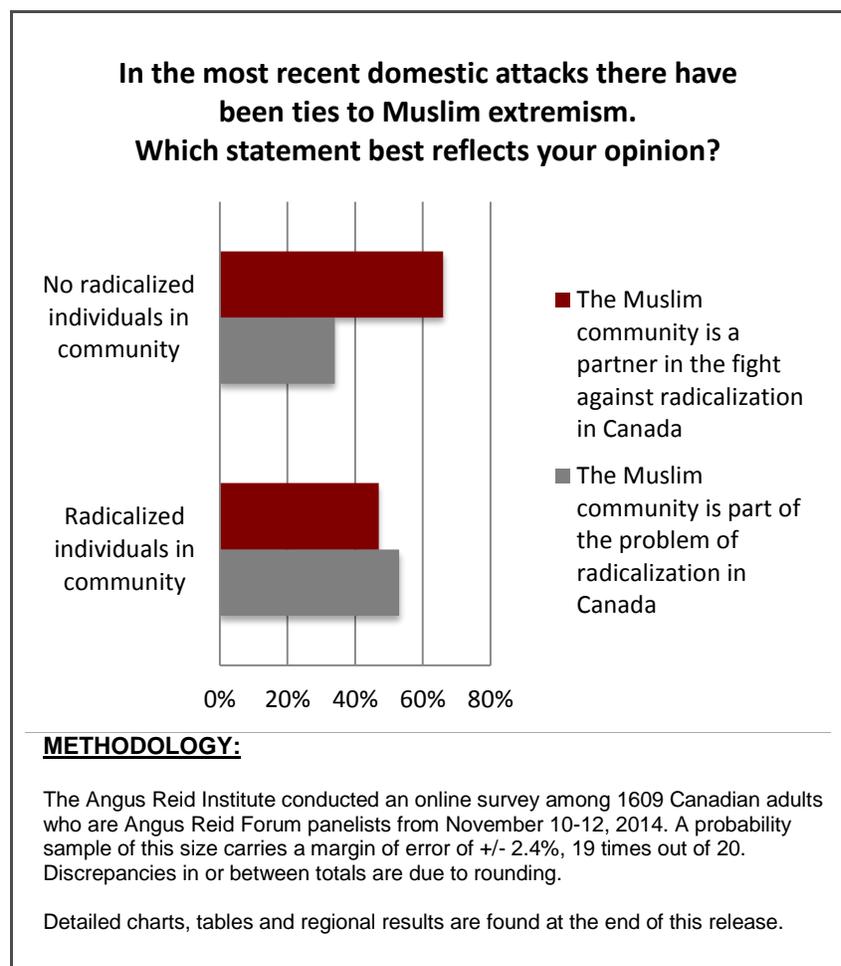
The online poll also shows Canadian opinion fluctuates significantly on support for wearing religious symbols and clothing in public, depending on the article being worn – and the religion it is associated with.

[Click here to read part one of ARI's report on this survey, published November 24, 2014.](#)

[Click here to read part two of ARI's report on this survey, published November 25, 2014.](#)

Views about Canada's Muslim community:

Revelations by police that suspects in the October 22, 2014 Parliament Hill shooting and the hit-and-run attack on military personnel the same week in Quebec were motivated by violent political ideology related



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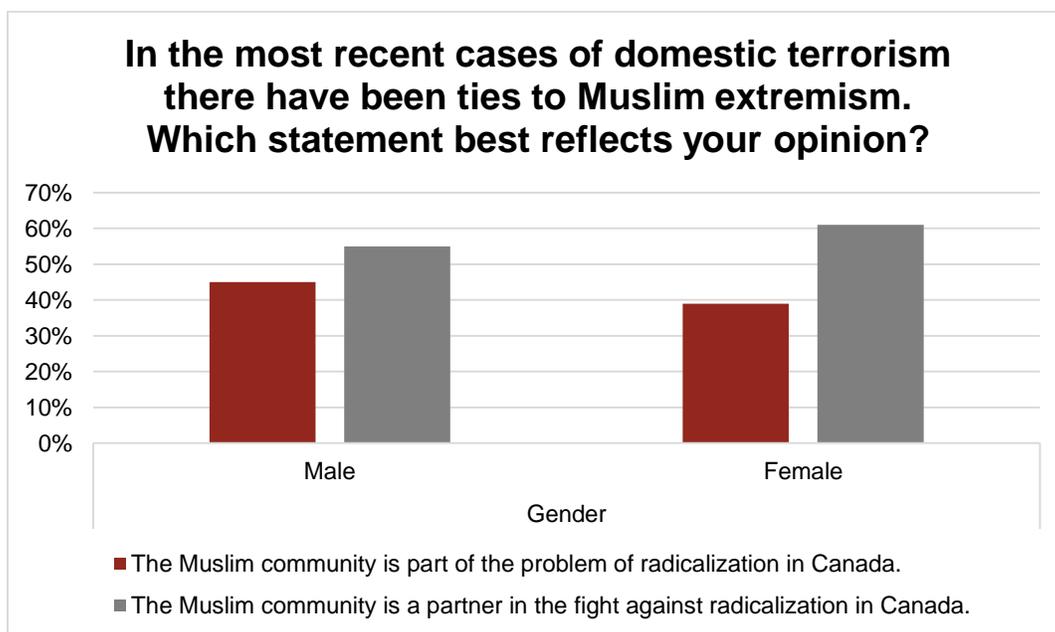
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to Islam once again bring the Canadian public discourse and views towards the Muslim community and its leadership.

To that end, ARI asked respondents how they viewed the Muslim community and its leadership in light of these acts. The majority (58%) of Canadians say the community is a “partner in the fight against radicalization”. A sizeable minority (42%), say the Muslim community as “part of the problem of radicalization.”

When results are analyzed based on whether respondents believe radicalized individuals are currently living in their communities, the minority turns into a slim majority.

For those who believe such people are living among them, just over half (53%) see the Muslim community as part of the problem. For those who say radicalized individuals are not living in their communities, the majority (66%) see the Muslim community as a partner in the collective fight.

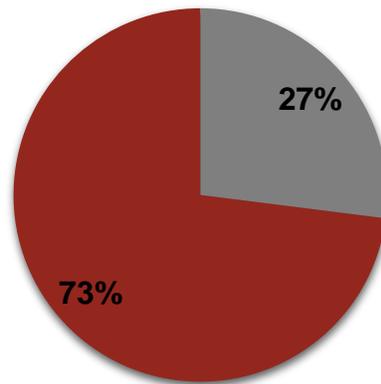


The national majority view that the Muslim community are partners in fighting radicalization does not mitigate another widespread view: that Muslim community leaders have been too quiet in denouncing violent ideology and acts of violence. Nationally, three-quarters (73%) of respondents say, “Muslim community leaders are not speaking out enough” against homegrown terrorism. This view is strongest in Saskatchewan (76%) and Atlantic Canada (78%), and weakest in Alberta (67%) and BC (66%).

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Thinking about the reaction of Muslim community leaders to acts of homegrown terrorism, what best describes your view?



- Muslim community leaders are speaking out enough against homegrown terrorism
- Muslim community leaders are not speaking out enough against homegrown terrorism

Issues of tolerance:

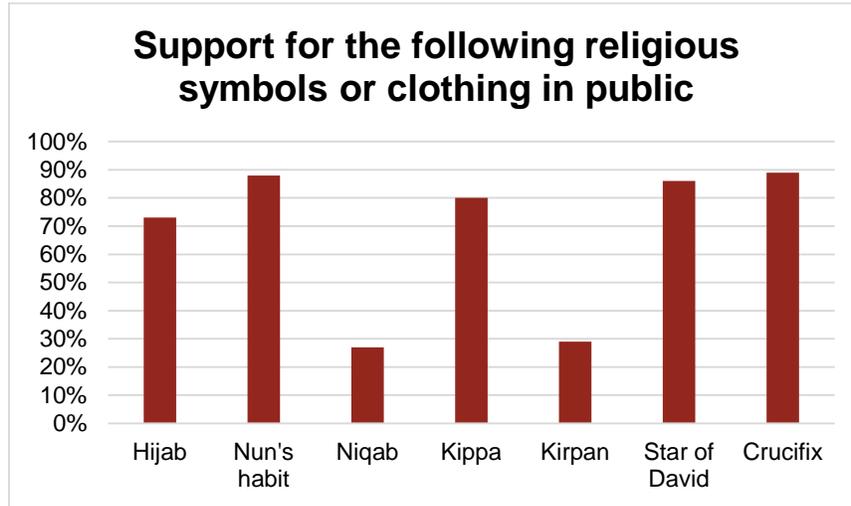
When asked if respondents supported or opposed people wearing various religious symbols or clothing in public, those surveyed generally approved, however, a few distinctly stand out.

In contrast to the majority of Canadians who support woman wearing the Hijab and a Nun's Habit – 73 per cent and 88 per cent respectively – seven out of ten (73%) oppose Muslim woman wearing a Niqab in public – a veil that covers the face, showing only the eyes –. The generations are divided on the subject with 42 percent of 18 to 34 year olds supporting the Niqab while eight in ten (85%) aged 55 and older, oppose its use.

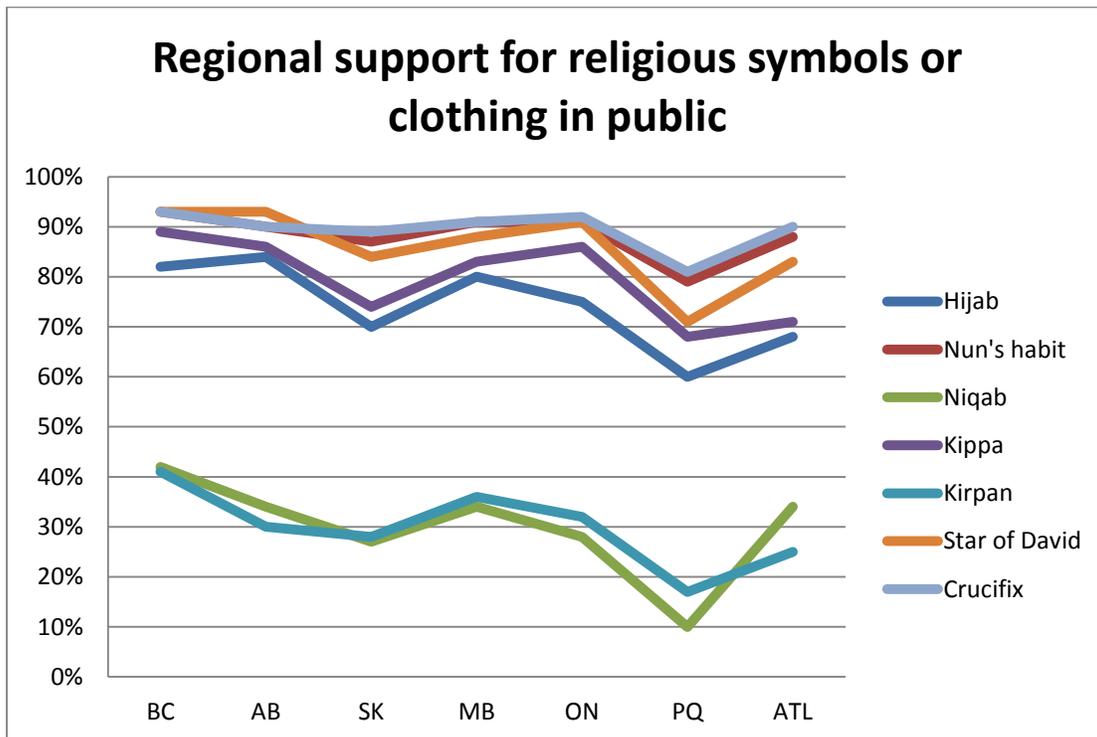
The Kippa, Star of David and Crucifix received wide spread approval (80%, 86% and 89% respectively), whereas the Kirpan – a ceremonial dagger carried by Sikhs – was deemed unfit to wear in public by 71 per cent of respondents.

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Regionally, however, support and opposition became more polarized. British Columbians showed the most wide spread support, while many in Quebec deemed the religious symbols and garments unacceptable for public display.



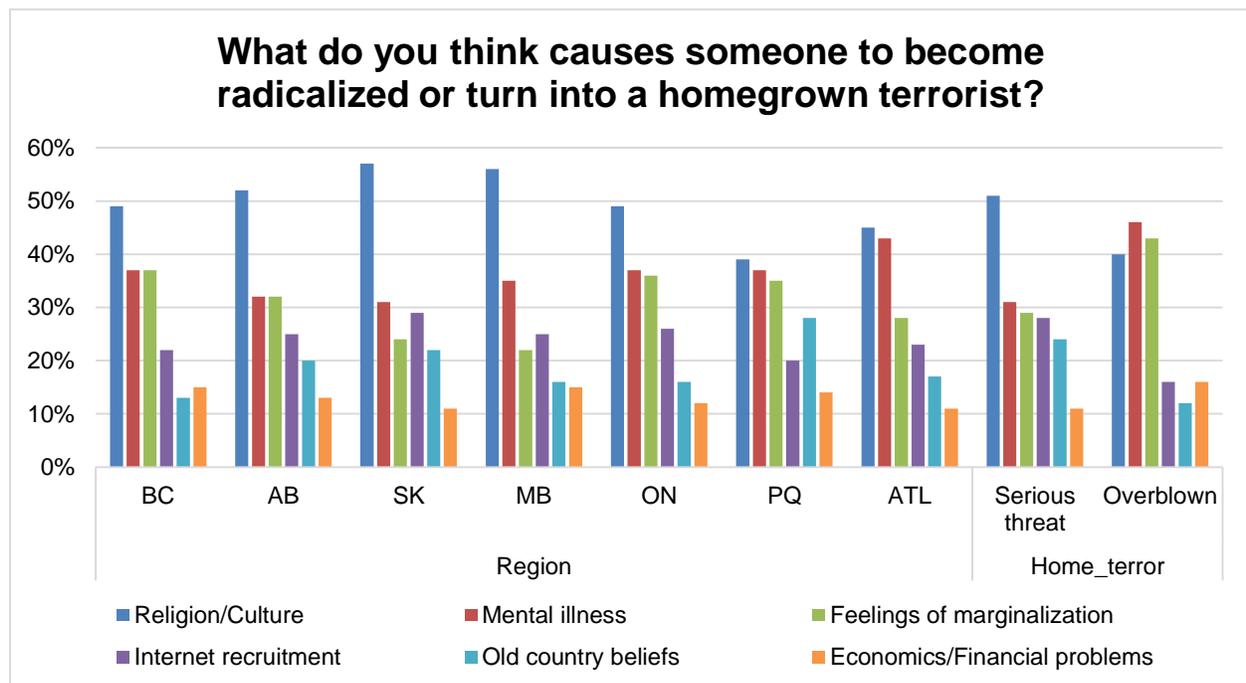
Causes of Radicalization:

ARI asked Canadians what they thought caused people to become radicalized. They were asked to choose from a number of possible causes. Respondents picked three causes most often:

- Religion/culture (47%)
- Mental illness (37%)
- Feelings of marginalization (34%)

It is notable that gender divides perception of their top two choices. Where Canadian women were almost evenly split between religion/culture (43%) and mental illness (40%), men were much more adamant that religion/culture (51%) was a bigger cause than the state of one's mental health (33%).

Other causes included "internet recruitment", "old country beliefs" and "economics/financial problems" (See tables at the end of this report).



Respondents were also gauged on their support or opposition towards possible measures aimed at addressing the radicalization process and preventing violent acts.

One hypothetical measure commanded the most support: a federally-funded program aimed at specifically training mental health workers to identify signs of radicalization. This garnered the backing of 87% of respondents nationally, with no significant difference in regional or demographic response.

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Other measures that garnered majority support included:

- Blocking access to Internet sites that promote ISIS or any other terrorist organization (83%)
- Deportation (82%)
- Indefinite imprisonment (68%)

There was one hypothetical measure on which support was much more tepid and on which Canadians were evenly divided. This was the suggestion of a federally funded grant program for mosques in Canada that wished to spend money on preventing radicalization. Half of respondents (49%) said they supported such a measure. Half (51%) said they opposed it.

*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. It has the status of a registered charity in Canada. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research organization established to enhance and encourage better understanding of issues and trends affecting economic, social, governance, philanthropy, public administration, domestic, and foreign policy in Canada and its world*

*Additional interviews were conducted in British Columbia, however for the purposes of reporting national results, they have been weighted to reflect each province's proportion of the Canadian population.

What do you think causes someone to become radicalized or turn into a homegrown terrorist?						
	Total (1609)	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Religion/Culture	47%	51%	43%	49%	47%	45%
Mental Illness	37%	33%	40%	41%	36%	33%
Feelings of marginalization	34%	33%	35%	33%	37%	32%
Internet recruitment	24%	21%	26%	21%	19%	31%
Old country beliefs	19%	19%	20%	18%	22%	17%
Economics/Financial problems	13%	12%	14%	16%	13%	11%

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What do you think causes someone to become radicalized or turn into a homegrown terrorist?								
	Total (1609)	Region						
		BC (402)	AB (152)	SK (97)	MB (104)	ON (401)	PQ (353)	ATL (100)
Religion/Culture	47%	49%	52%	57%	56%	49%	39%	45%
Mental Illness	37%	37%	32%	31%	35%	37%	37%	43%
Feelings of marginalization	34%	37%	32%	24%	22%	36%	35%	28%
Internet recruitment	24%	22%	25%	29%	25%	26%	20%	23%
Old country beliefs	19%	13%	20%	22%	16%	16%	28%	17%
Economics/Financial problems	13%	15%	13%	11%	15%	12%	14%	11%

Do you support or oppose the following methods to address radicalization in Canada? [Summary of Support]						
	Total (1609)	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Indefinite imprisonment	68%	69%	66%	60%	69%	72%
Deportation	82%	84%	81%	72%	86%	87%
Special federal grants for every mosque that wants to spend money on preventing radicalization	49%	48%	49%	61%	46%	42%
Blocking access to any internet site that promotes ISIS or any other terrorist organization	83%	79%	87%	76%	82%	89%
A special federal program to specifically train mental health workers to identify signs of radicalization	87%	85%	88%	89%	86%	85%

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	Total (1609)	Region						
		BC (402)	AB (152)	SK (97)	MB (104)	ON (401)	PQ (353)	ATL (100)
Indefinite imprisonment	68%	57%	61%	77%	72%	66%	79%	64%
Deportation	82%	80%	82%	91%	84%	81%	84%	86%
Special federal grants for every mosque that wants to spend money on preventing radicalization	49%	51%	48%	42%	45%	51%	46%	45%
Blocking access to any internet site that promotes ISIS or any other terrorist organization	83%	75%	75%	88%	86%	83%	88%	83%
A special federal program to specifically train mental health workers to identify signs of radicalization	87%	87%	87%	78%	88%	88%	87%	86%

Do you support or oppose the following methods to address radicalization in Canada? [Summary of Oppose]						
	Total (1609)	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Indefinite imprisonment	32%	31%	34%	40%	31%	28%
Deportation	18%	16%	19%	28%	14%	13%
Special federal grants for every mosque that wants to spend money on preventing radicalization	51%	52%	51%	39%	54%	58%
Blocking access to any internet site that promotes ISIS or any other terrorist organization	17%	21%	13%	24%	18%	11%
A special federal program to specifically train mental health workers to identify signs of radicalization	13%	15%	12%	11%	14%	15%

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Do you support or oppose the following methods to address radicalization in Canada? [Summary of Oppose]								
	Total (1609)	Region						
		BC (402)	AB (152)	SK (97)	MB (104)	ON (401)	PQ (353)	ATL (100)
Indefinite imprisonment	32%	43%	39%	23%	28%	34%	21%	36%
Deportation	18%	20%	18%	9%	16%	19%	16%	14%
Special federal grants for every mosque that wants to spend money on preventing radicalization	51%	49%	52%	58%	55%	49%	54%	55%
Blocking access to any internet site that promotes ISIS or any other terrorist organization	17%	25%	25%	12%	14%	17%	12%	17%
A special federal program to specifically train mental health workers to identify signs of radicalization	13%	13%	13%	22%	12%	12%	13%	14%

In the most recent cases of domestic terrorism there have been ties to Muslim extremism. Which statement best reflects your opinion?						
	Total (1609)	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
The Muslim community is part of the problem of radicalization in Canada.	42%	45%	39%	37%	43%	45%
The Muslim community is a partner in the fight against radicalization in Canada.	58%	55%	61%	63%	57%	55%

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	Total (1609)	Region						
		BC (402)	AB (152)	SK (97)	MB (104)	ON (401)	PQ (353)	ATL (100)
The Muslim community is part of the problem of radicalization in Canada.	42%	36%	37%	54%	33%	39%	53%	39%
The Muslim community is a partner in the fight against radicalization in Canada.	58%	64%	63%	46%	67%	61%	47%	61%

In the most recent cases of domestic terrorism there have been ties to Muslim extremism. Which statement best reflects your opinion?			
	Total (1609)	Terrorism	
		Radicalized individuals in Community	No radicalized individuals in Community
The Muslim community is part of the problem of radicalization in Canada.	42%	53%	34%
The Muslim community is a partner in the fight against radicalization in Canada.	58%	47%	66%

Thinking about the reaction of Muslim community leaders to acts of homegrown terrorism, what best describes your opinion?						
	Total (1609)	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Muslim community leaders are speaking out enough against homegrown terrorism	27%	23%	30%	36%	26%	20%
Muslim community leaders are not speaking out enough against homegrown terrorism	73%	77%	70%	64%	74%	80%

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Thinking about the reaction of Muslim community leaders to acts of homegrown terrorism, what best describes your opinion?								
	Total (1609)	Region						
		BC (402)	AB (152)	SK (97)	MB (104)	ON (401)	PQ (353)	ATL (100)
Muslim community leaders are speaking out enough against homegrown terrorism	27%	34%	33%	24%	27%	26%	23%	22%
Muslim community leaders are not speaking out enough against homegrown terrorism	73%	66%	67%	76%	73%	74%	77%	78%

Do you support or oppose people wearing the following religious symbols or clothing in public? [Summary of Support]						
	Total (1609)	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Hijab	73%	69%	76%	74%	77%	68%
Nun's habit	88%	84%	92%	84%	91%	88%
Niqab	27%	24%	30%	42%	26%	15%
Kippa	80%	75%	85%	79%	85%	76%
Kirpan	29%	30%	27%	36%	27%	24%
Star of David	86%	83%	89%	81%	89%	86%
Crucifix	89%	85%	93%	84%	93%	89%

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		BC (402)	AB (152)	SK (97)	MB (104)	ON (401)	PQ (353)	ATL (100)
Hijab	73%	82%	84%	70%	80%	75%	60%	68%
Nun's habit	88%	93%	90%	87%	91%	91%	79%	88%
Niqab	27%	42%	34%	27%	34%	28%	10%	34%
Kippa	80%	89%	86%	74%	83%	86%	68%	71%
Kirpan	29%	41%	30%	28%	36%	32%	17%	25%
Star of David	86%	93%	93%	84%	88%	91%	71%	83%
Crucifix	89%	93%	90%	89%	91%	92%	81%	90%

Do you support or oppose people wearing the following religious symbols or clothing in public? [Summary of Oppose]						
	Total (1609)	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Hijab	27%	31%	24%	26%	23%	32%
Nun's habit	12%	16%	8%	16%	9%	12%
Niqab	73%	76%	70%	58%	74%	85%
Kippa	20%	25%	15%	21%	15%	24%
Kirpan	71%	70%	73%	64%	73%	76%
Star of David	14%	17%	11%	19%	11%	14%
Crucifix	11%	15%	7%	16%	7%	11%

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Hijab	27%	18%	16%	30%	20%	25%	40%	32%
Nun's habit	12%	7%	10%	13%	9%	9%	21%	12%
Niqab	73%	58%	66%	73%	66%	72%	90%	66%
Kippa	20%	11%	14%	26%	17%	14%	32%	29%
Kirpan	71%	59%	70%	72%	64%	68%	83%	75%
Star of David	14%	7%	7%	16%	12%	9%	29%	17%
Crucifix	11%	7%	10%	11%	9%	8%	19%	10%

QUESTIONNAIRE:

Recently, the actions of so-called radicalized Canadians driven by violent ideologies have been in the news. Some examples of homegrown terrorism include the hit-and-run death of a soldier in Quebec and the shooting in Ottawa. We are interested in your opinions on this issue.

1. In recent weeks, how closely have you been following the issue of homegrown terrorism?

Very closely
Closely
Not very closely
Not at all

2. Some people think there is a serious threat of homegrown terrorism in Canada. Others believe the threat has been overblown by politicians and the media. Which of these two views is the closest to your own?

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There is a serious threat of homegrown terrorism in Canada
Politicians and the media have overblown the threat of homegrown terrorism in Canada

3.a. Do you feel there are radicalized Canadians living in your community right now?

Yes
No
Not sure

3.b – IF “no” or “not sure” ON 2A ASK

How likely do you think it is that people are becoming radicalized in your community, on a scale from 0 - 10 where 0 is definitely not and 10 is 100% sure there are

0 – Totally unlikely
10 – Totally likely

4. What do you think causes someone to become radicalized or turn into a homegrown terrorist? Pick up to two.

Religion/Culture
Economics/Financial problems
Old country beliefs
Feelings of marginalization
Mental Illness
Internet recruitment

5. Thinking about suspected homegrown terrorists who want to travel overseas, some people say their passports should be taken away. Others say they should be allowed to go. What statement best describes what we should be doing?

Take their passports, keep them in Canada and have the police watching them
Let them leave if they want to even if it means they might be committing acts of terror somewhere else

6. How confident are you in Canada’s security services (CSIS, RCMP and local police) to prevent homegrown radicals from carrying out terrorist attacks in Canada?

Very confident
Confident
Not very confident
Not confident at all
Not sure

7. Do you support or oppose the following methods to address radicalization in Canada?

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Indefinite imprisonment
Deportation
Special federal grants for every mosque that wants to spend money on preventing radicalization
Blocking access to any internet site that promotes ISIS or any other terrorist organization
A special federal program to specifically train mental health workers to identify signs of radicalization

Strongly support
Support
Oppose
Strongly oppose

8. Thinking about prevention, where is the best place to address the radicalization of Canadians?

Schools
Places of worship
Community centres
Family homes
Online/internet

9. Some people say that indefinitely jailing suspected homegrown terrorists is the best way to reduce violent crime, others say it motivates those people to commit crimes when they are released. Which best describes your view?

It prevents violent crime
It just motivates these people to commit violent crime when they are released

10. In the most recent domestic attacks there have been ties to Muslim extremism. Some people say the Muslim community is part of the problem, others say it is a valuable partner in the fight against radicalization. Which statement best reflects your opinion?

The Muslim community is part of the problem of radicalization in Canada.
The Muslim community is a partner in the fight against radicalization in Canada.

11. Thinking about the reaction of Muslim community leaders to the recent attacks, what best describes your opinion?

Muslim community leaders are speaking out enough against homegrown terrorism
Muslim community leaders are not speaking out enough against homegrown terrorism

12. On October 27 of this year, the federal government introduced a proposed law (Bill C-44) that would give the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) increased powers to watch Canadians, the authority to operate outside Canada, and to share information about Canadians with other countries. It also gives more protection to confidential sources.

What best describes your feelings about Bill C-44:

It goes too far and steps on our civil liberties
It does a good job of addressing the threats we're facing
It doesn't go far enough to protect us

13. Where should the federal government be putting **more** priority to address the radicalization of Canadians with violent ideologies?

Stern measures to punish radicalization.
More initiatives to prevent radicalization.
Neither.

14. Do you support or oppose people wearing each of the following religious symbols or clothing in public?

Turban
Hijab
Tenue de religieuse
Burka
Kippa
Kirpan
Étoile de David
Crucifix

Strongly Support
Support
Oppose
Strongly Oppose

15. Some people have called the shooting in Ottawa a terrorist attack. Others have called it an act by someone with a mental illness. Which statement best describes your opinion?

The shooting in Ottawa was a terrorist attack
The shooting in Ottawa was an act by a person with a mental illness
Not sure/can't say