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Islamophobia

All across the western world, a fear is brewing. A fear built off prejudice, hatred, and just an overall lack of cultural awareness. This fear has come to be known as Islamophobia. The perception of Muslim culture has been twisted by western news mediums which aim to generalize and stereotype followers of Islam in a negative light. Many reports of violent and heinous crimes being strategically carried out by Muslim extremist groups such as Daesh (ISIS) has brought many to question the core values pertaining to the religion of Islam. With the United States in the thick of another hotly contested election year, candidates and big news corporations have seemed to make this issue one of the more talked about points of discussions. Europe is currently in the midst of massive migrations from countries in turmoil in the middle east such as Syria which has sparked widespread outrage among westerners. Islamophobia has reached new heights in the western world in recent years because the media has portrayed Muslims in a very negative light, advancements made by Islamic extremist groups, and support for politicians with negative outlooks on Muslim culture has become popular with the consensus.

The media and news sources featured across the United States and the rest of the western world can be blamed for why so many westerners view the Muslim population the way they do. The media chooses to report more stories of injustice and acts of terrors coming out of the middle east than many other parts of the world that face their own forms tyranny and social injustice. The consistency of reports and headlines coming out of the middle east that reflect their

current state of trial tribulations has the primary focus of manipulating people into viewing the Muslim people through their own crooked, objective based lenses. Meaning that people who follow the news will be subject to the repetition of headlines that are intentionally primed to promote negative perceptions of Muslims and the middle east. Similar events that are taking place in areas with little to none political interest receive little to none attention from mainstream western news sources. They even use misleading headlines to draw concern to areas where they're simply are none. For example, The Sun magazine had the audacity to falsely report that 1 in 5 Muslims are Isis sympathizers with absolutely no evidence to document (Rocket news). Headlines like these are toxic and do nothing more than fester hatred and animosity without reason. News media corporations are at the root of what's causing the great increase in widespread Islamophobia.

Although News giants have been misconstruing stories and headlines coming out of the middle east, the horrific atrocities carried out by the Muslim extremist terrorist group, ISIS, have instilled fear among westerners and other countries that view ISIS as a very alarming and real threat. ISIS also murders their own women and children as well as torturing thousands of their own who choose to go against their barbaric intolerant views. Unlike other terrorist groups, ISIS has done particularly well at convincing or brainwashing others from around the globe to join their dark and heavy movement. ISIS has been able to reach out to so many different individuals far and wide through social media apps and websites. This is what is most alarming yet unique about this terrorist organization. They can convince citizens and persons belonging to free nations to carry out acts of terrorism in their own community with careful planning strategically orchestrated by the master minds behind some of the most horrific tragedies the world has ever seen. Unfortunately, this scares people into having Islamophobic ideals because ISIS is soely

made up of Muslim extremists. What people fail to understand is that these so called Muslim extremists are not true Muslims because what they are doing goes against some main principals of Islam.

If misleading news reports and the technological advancements of Muslim extremist terror groups are not enough to convince a large majority of people to fear and be prejudice towards religious group, a majority of political leaders are calling for new laws and safety measures that are in direct conflict with Muslim culture and even reflects some of the discrimination faced by Jewish people in World War 2. With social injustice and repeated violations of human rights tearing through the middle east, many middle easterners are migrating to Europe in hopes of gaining asylum but there is simply no room for these people to go. They are usually forced into make shift shanty towns that are the least bit hospitable. Many Leaders are worried of the massive migration and what it could mean for their market economies. A shocking poll by USA Today, showed that 39% of US citizens were in favor of Muslims being forced to carry special identification which is a policy that reflects how German's labeled Jews in World War 2 (USA Today). In America, Trump has gained the lead in many polls with a campaign that hasn't shied away from being outlandish with many foreign policies that seem to be coincide with bigotry.

The issue with Islamophobia is the blinders that our realities place in front of us to keep us from making just and rational realizations. A news media that conditions people to be spiteful towards other minorities, ethnicities, and religious groups is one that cannot be. And yes, Isis is a huge issue on the foreign front. We can drop as many bombs and kill as many terrorists as we want, but it is the evil to their idea we need to kill, not their people. We also need to view our political representation more in depth and appropriately pick representation that reflects a

determined pursuit of justice and equality for all. Islamophobia is no fear; it is merely an excuse to allow hate.

Work Cited

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