



UK Muslim Poll 2025



What people think,
feel and do

Introduction to the research

This report presents findings from a nationally representative poll of 504 UK Muslims, conducted by Opinium on behalf of Concordia Forum. The survey explores a range of topics including experiences of discrimination, attitudes towards the Israel-Gaza conflict, and concerns about the issue of the Rotherham grooming gangs. The results offer insights into the community's perceptions of and views on current events. Fieldwork took place between January 28 and February 4, 2025.

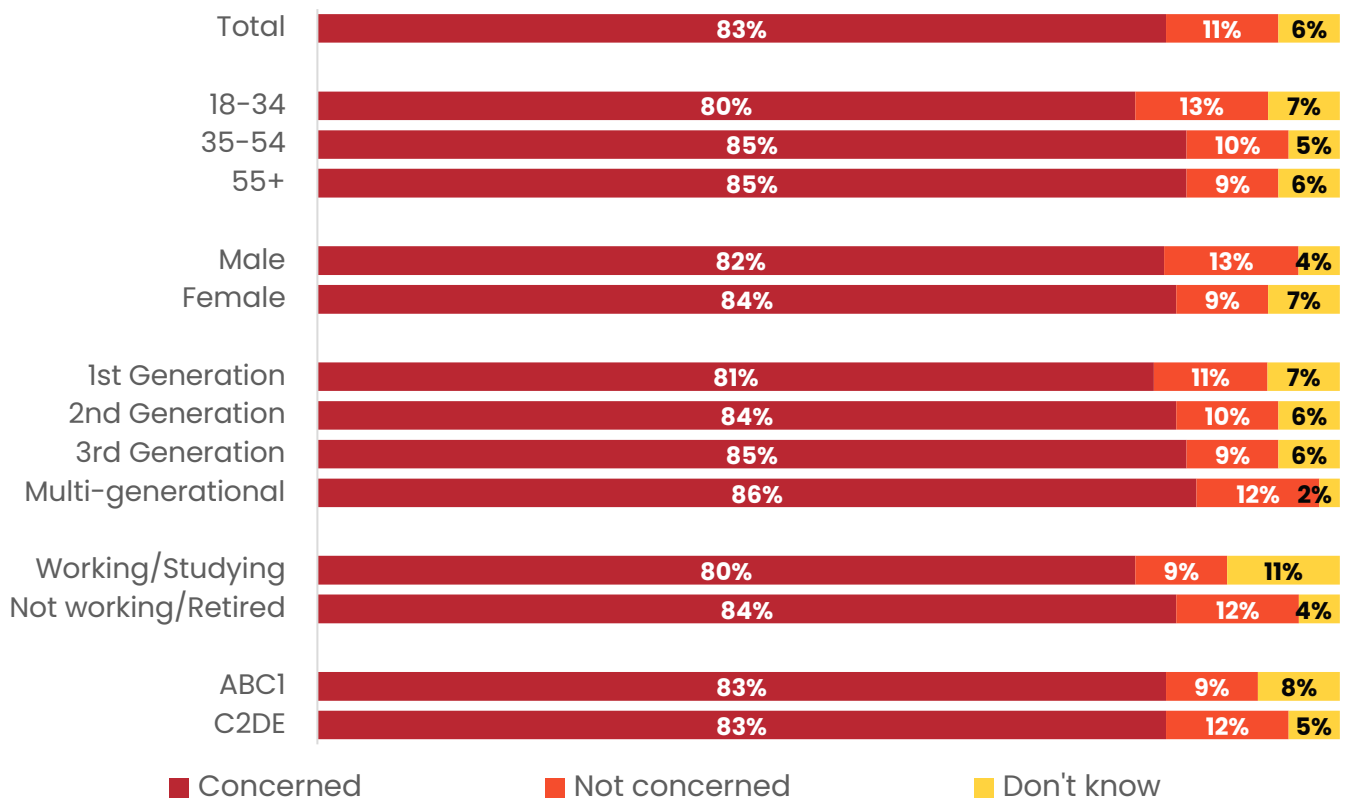
Research findings

UK Muslims call for increased support for Grooming Gang victims

Muslims are deeply concerned about grooming gangs in the UK, with an overwhelming majority (83%) expressing worry. This concern is consistently shared across all demographics, demonstrating the urgent belief in a need for more effective support systems.

Older Muslims and those from multi-generational backgrounds showed a slightly higher level of worry. We found a 5-point difference, with 85% of those aged 55+ reportedly concerned compared to 80% aged between 18-34. The same difference was found with respondents from a multi-generational background more concerned than those from a 1st-generation background (86% vs 81%).

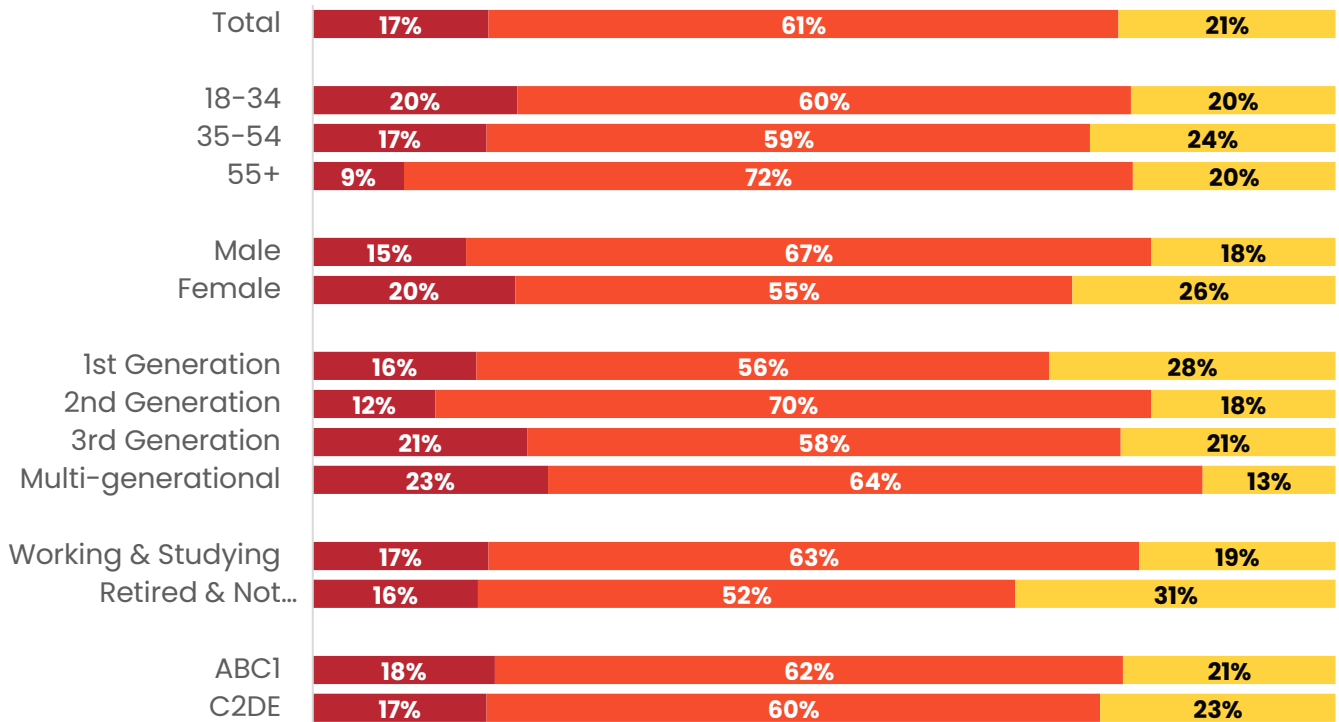
"How concerned, if at all, are you by grooming gangs in the UK?"



Concern for victims is demonstrably high

Similarly, there is a clear consensus among UK Muslims that the victims of the grooming gangs need more support. A strong majority of 61% of respondents believed more support is needed, while only 17% believed sufficient support had been provided. This sentiment was particularly strong among older respondents (72% of those 55 and over, vs 60% of those 54 and younger). Men were also more likely to think victims require more support than women (67% vs 55%).

"Do you think victims of these grooming gangs have been provided with sufficient support or do you think more should be done to provide support?"

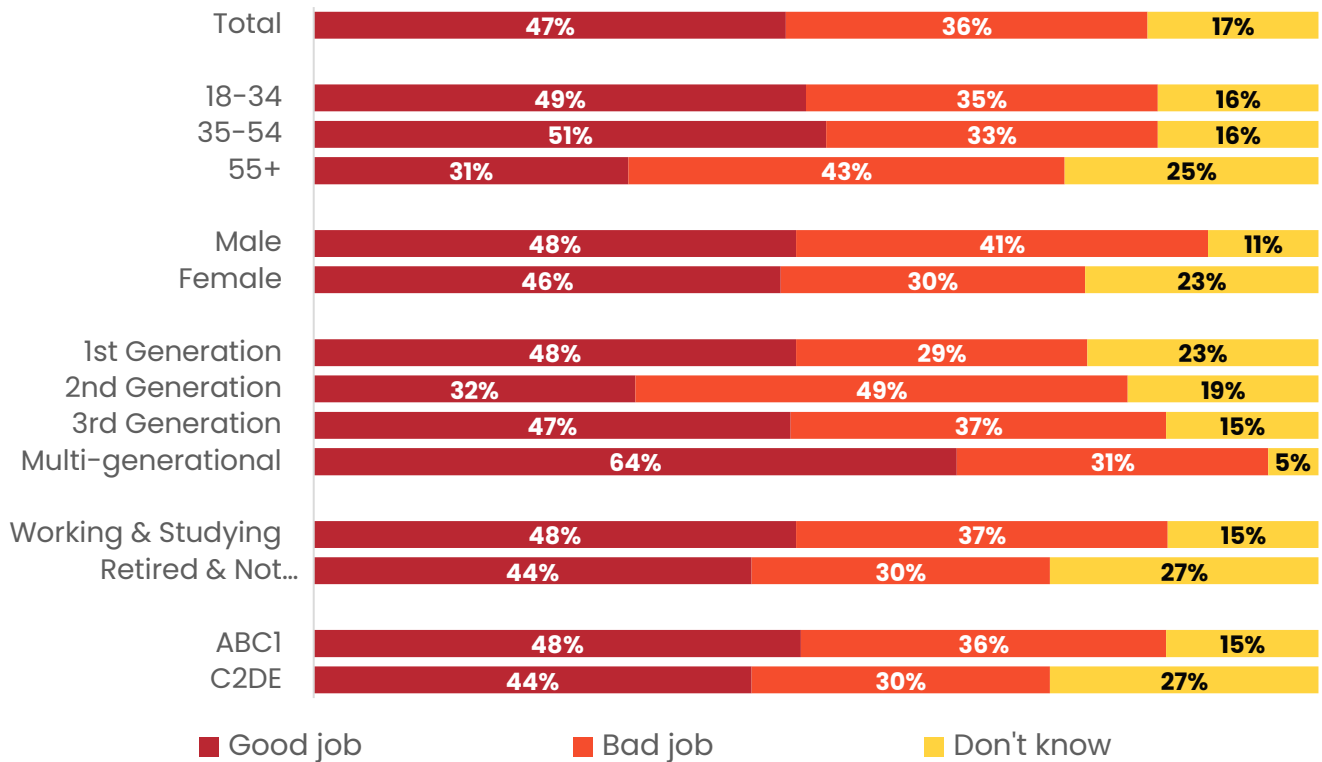


■ Provided with sufficient support ■ More support should be provided ■ Don't know

Perceptions over the police’s performance dealing with grooming gangs in the UK was mixed, varying considerably by different demographics. At a total level just under half (47%) believe the police have done a good job, compared to 36% who think they have done a bad job, with 17% unsure.

Younger respondents (54 and under) generally held a positive view, with 50% believing the police have done a good job compared to 34% who think they have done a bad job. However, older respondents (55+) were more critical, with only 31% rating police performance positively and 43% negatively.

"Do you think the police have done a good or bad job when dealing with grooming gangs in the UK?"



While nearly half of both men and women viewed police performance favourably, men were more likely to express negative opinions (41% vs. 30%). Women also exhibited greater uncertainty, with 23% responding "don't know" compared to 11% of men. Notably, respondents from multi-generational backgrounds are the most likely to approve of police performance (64%), while those from second-generation backgrounds are the least likely (32%).

Experiences of discrimination

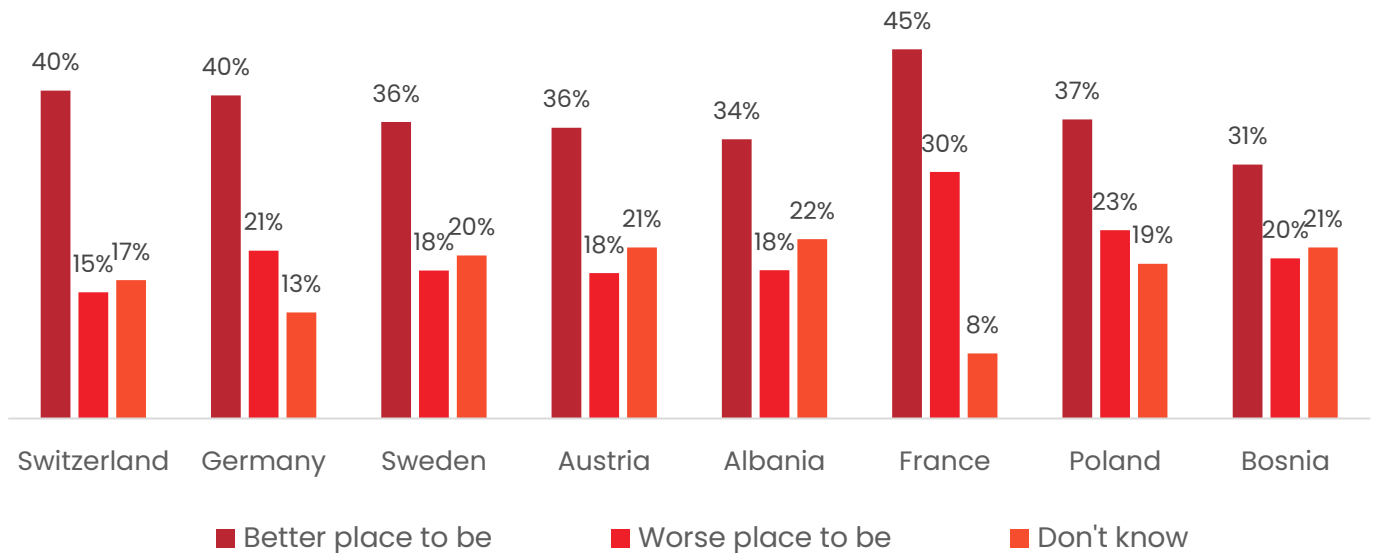
Half say discrimination is increasing

Just under half (49%) of Muslims in the UK said they have experienced discrimination due to their religious beliefs. Black Muslims (37%) and first-generation immigrants (39%) were the least likely to report discriminatory experiences, while second and multi-generational were the most likely at 57%

and 55% respectively. Among those who say they have experienced discrimination 17% say it has happened once, with a third (32%) reporting it happening on more than one occasion.

Worryingly, the majority (61%) of respondents consider discrimination against Muslims to be common, and only 17% consider it uncommon. Half believe discrimination is rising (49%) against them compared to two years ago, particularly older Muslims aged 55+ (64%) and those of Indian descent (63%). A quarter (26%) believe discrimination levels have remained the same and 18% think they are decreasing.

"Do you think the UK is a better or worse place to be a Muslim compared to the following European countries?"



Despite many Muslims reporting common experiences of discrimination in the UK, it is still considered a better place to be a Muslim compared to all other European countries we asked of shown above.

Two thirds (65%) of Muslims would support the establishment of a government-funded organisation to tackle anti-Muslim discrimination and raise awareness of Islamophobia in the UK. Support was strongest among black Muslims (83%) and second-generation immigrants (69%).

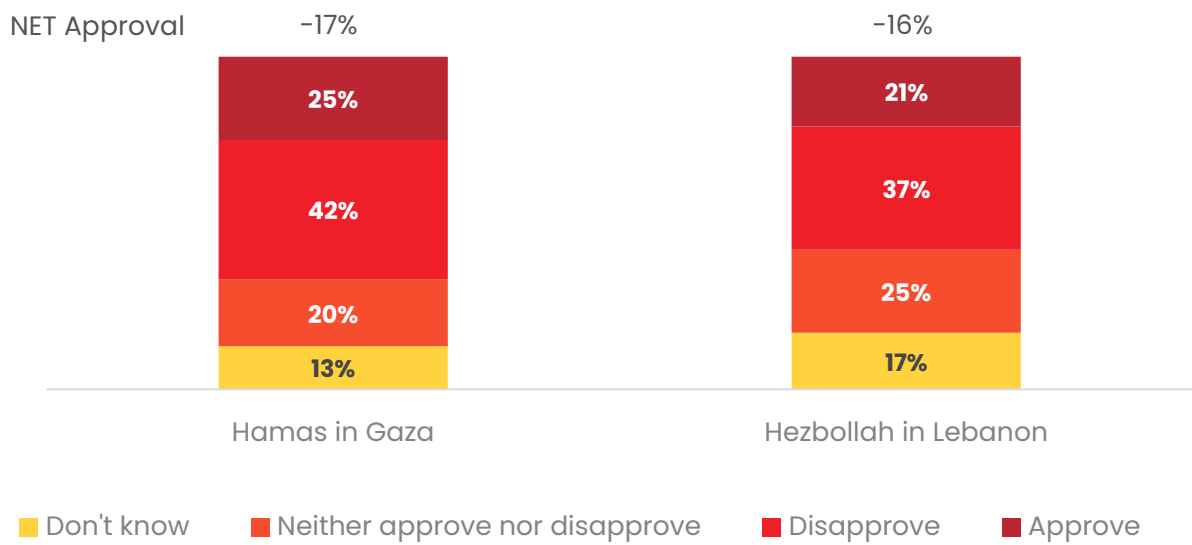
Respondents were provided with a description of the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) and the study found that 60% were supportive of the UK appointing a special envoy, compared to few who oppose (12%).

Israel-Gaza conflict

Three in four Muslims believe more support could be shown to people in Gaza

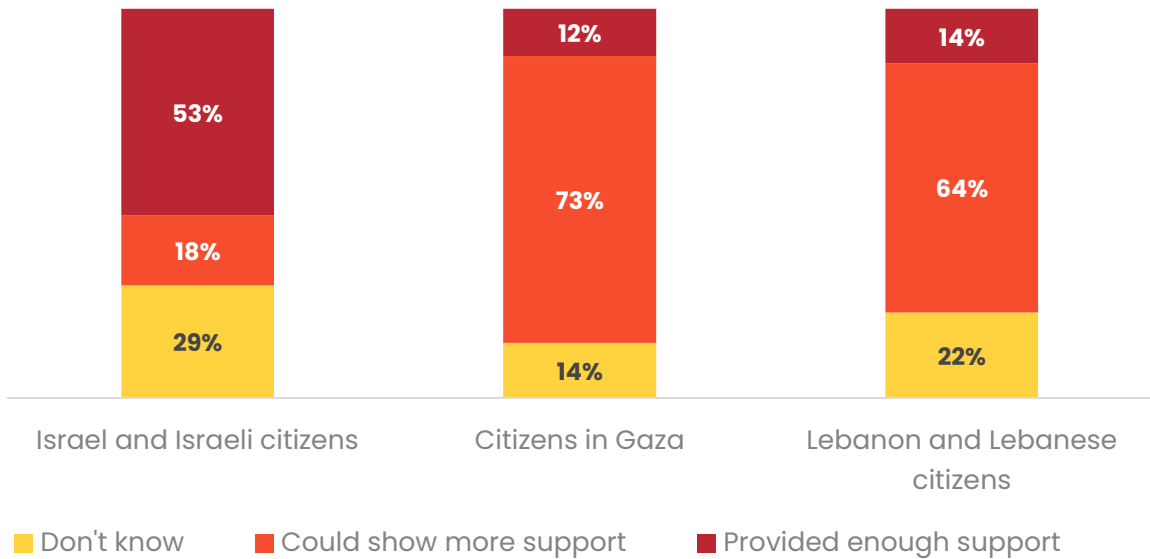
Muslims in the UK have been very attentive to the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza with four-fifths (80%) saying they have been following it closely. Awareness of the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon is not as high, although a majority have still been following it closely (59%).

"To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the way the Labour Government has responded to the conflicts between Israel and..."



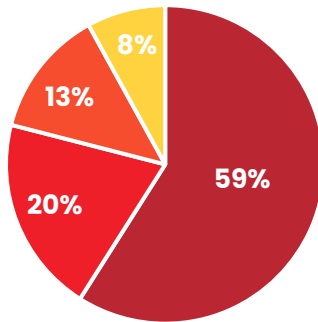
Respondents generally disapprove of the Labour party's response to the current conflicts in the Middle East involving Israel. Net approval (the approval % minus the disapproval %) of Labour's response to Hamas in Gaza is -17% and to Hezbollah in Lebanon is -16%. A considerable proportion of respondents however don't hold strong views on the conflict, with 33% saying they either don't know or feel neutral to Labour's response on Gaza, and 42% saying the same for Hezbollah in Lebanon.

"Do you think the Labour Government have provided enough support or could do more to show their support for the following:"



A majority (53%) of Muslims in the UK believe the Labour party have provided enough support to Israel and Israeli citizens, with far fewer believing more support could be shown (18%). Contrastingly, nearly three-quarters (73%) believe more support could be shown for citizens in Gaza, with only 12% thinking enough support has been shown. Respondents feel similarly about Lebanon and Lebanese citizens, with two-thirds (64%) believing more support could be shown for people there.

Support for recognising Palestine as an independent state



■ Support ■ Oppose ■ Neither ■ Don't know

There is strong support for the UK to formally recognise Palestine as an independent state, with three-fifths (59%) supporting this idea compared 20% who oppose. There is a large age divide on this issue, with 78% of those 55+ supporting the idea, compared to 53% aged 18-34. One-in-seven (13%) neither support nor oppose recognition, with 8% saying they don't know.

Respondents were provided with information about the 'Two-State solution' proposed to resolve the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Muslims in the UK are generally supportive (48%) of the idea, compared to 20% who oppose. Similarly to the previous question respondents aged 55+ are more supportive of the idea compared to those age 18-34 (61% vs 40%). A fifth (21%) of respondents however neither support or oppose the idea (21%) or don't know (11%).

Concluding statements

The result of the study revealed widespread concern about a range of topics from the experiences of the victims of the Rotheram scandals to personal experiences of Islamophobia. A significant minority of Muslims express concern about religious discrimination and the community demonstrates a strong interest in the Israel-Gaza conflict, with widespread support for increased aid to Gaza and formal recognition of Palestine. Opinions on police handling of the Rotheram gangs showed mixed feelings across age groups and generations. Further research is needed to explore the reasons behind these opinions. Exploring the underlying reasons for the differences in perceptions across generations would aid in developing effective strategies to address this and other complex issue and help build trust and foster open dialogue within the community.

About The Concordia Forum



The Concordia Forum is an invitation-only global network of nearly 1,000 leaders of Muslim backgrounds. The Forum convenes annual retreats, alternating between North America and Europe, bringing together up to 250 participants to promote social justice, improve social mobility, and foster collaborative problem-solving for positive societal change. These retreats provide a platform for cross-sectoral leaders to engage in workshops, debates, and cultural activities, fostering dialogue and bridge-building in a dynamic global landscape. The Forum is non-religious in nature and leverages the diverse faith and professional backgrounds of its participants to address complex global challenges.

www.concordiaforum.com | info@theconcordiaforum.com |



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