

# Equalities Tutor Time: Media Bias Towards Minorities

Produced at Fullbrook School

With extra resources from:  
BTN Media Literacy  
Centre for Media Monitoring

# Big think

How would you feel if  
you were  
misrepresented every  
day?



Misrepresent – to show in an  
inaccurate way

# Throughout history, many groups of people have been misrepresented as part of propaganda or ignorance



**REGISTERED RED  
IN '36: LUCILLE**  
*Star Denies She Voted Commie*



Communists



People claiming benefits

“Figures show more than half of the stories about teenage boys in national and regional newspapers in the past year (4,374 out of 8,629) were about crime. The word most commonly used to describe them was "yobs" (591 times), followed by "thugs" (254 times), "sick" (119 times) and "feral" (96 times).”

Study by Echo (2009)

Teenage boys

# So why is media bias a bad thing?



<https://youtu.be/vOVyK2jq4yU>

# Today we are focussing on media bias against Muslims in particular,

Research found a number of stories featured in the press about Muslims which turned out to be simply false, for example it notes how on December 9th, 2010 The Sun headline read, “Al Qaeda Corrie Threat”. The item went on to state that, “Cops are throwing a ring of steel around tonight’s live episode of Coronation Street over fears that it is being targeted by Al Qaeda.”



Nineteen days later The Sun covered another article, this time with smaller headlines and tucked away on page 2 stating; ‘we would like to make clear that whilst cast and crew were subject to full body searches, there was no specific threat from Al Qaeda as we reported. We apologise for this misunderstanding.’

**What is the effect of always linking tighter security to ‘Islamist’ terrorist threats? What is the impact of printing inaccuracies in big headlines and corrections in small headlines?**

# This is pretty common!

- Remember, it is illegal to publish lies, this is called Libel. If someone commits libel, you can complain and even sue if they do not retract it.
- This doesn't stop a lot of newspapers from taking their chances and hoping no one challenges them – remember, scandal is the ultimate clickbait!
- Click the link to look at just a small selection of headlines made about Muslims that turned out to be libellous.
- <https://mcb.org.uk/project/media-monitoring/>





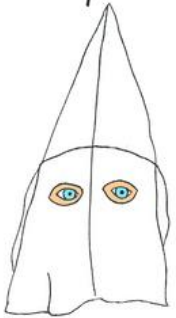
# Watch the video up to 1:30

- This community of Muslims were the target of an unsuccessful terror plot.
- How strange do you think the media would find it to have an all Christian town in rural America? (NB. There are loads of towns and cities names after Christian saints, and even a Christian County, in Missouri)?
- Listen to the way the media talks about them before the plot has even happened. “Monitoring them is not enough” What does this imply?
- How fair a way is this to treat your own citizens?

How do you think hearing the news talk about Muslim citizens this way might make people feel who already are Islamophobic? What about people who think violence is the answer to getting rid of Muslims?

# How do you think this affects perception of Muslims?

Average Press Coverage Of A Terrorist Attack



Non-'Islamic' perpetrator

'Islamic' perpetrator



THE Calais crisis intensified last night after a day of astonishing scenes on both sides of the Channel triggered by the chaos at the French port.

by Claire Elliott and Stephen Wright

ported migrants on the M20 after they made it to the other side of the Thanet. One eye-witness told the BBC news website: "Last night, 200 migrants tried to cross the Thanet, shortly after a shuttle train from the UK pulled in, they rushed at the point where our train was the British coastguard." "The British coastguard was alerted it through before and police formed a perimeter around the area. A 40-minute drive to the airport was the opportunity for the migrants - a move which will have major implications for the UK economy, with the possibility of a £100m a day because of the chaos."

Credited in the arms of a Turkish policeman, this little boy was drowned during his refugee family's desperate bid to reach Greece. The boy could not be more harrowing - but must be seen to comprehend the gravity of the migrant crisis engulfing Europe.



# Discuss

- How can we make it clear that we don't buy into stereotypes here at Fullbrook?
- How can we help others to be more critical of media bias?

