Multiculturalism and Muslims should not be blamed

After the end of World War II, the UK started to encourage immigratipm because of the lack of labour, and embraced multiculturalism afterwards to protect and attract them. It not only gives immigrants equal civil rights, but also encourages them to retain their own ethnic and religious traditions. Under this policy, a number of refugees and immigrants from ex-colonies have entered the UK, and many of them are Muslim.

Some extremist narratives, including "Multiracialism has been a disaster for Britain" and "We want our country back", have been put forward by National Front (NF), which is a British far-right political party.

The recent alienation between Muslims and the mainstream society has triggered a conflict of identity. In particular, the choice between religious identity (Islamist) and national identity (British citizen) is inevitable. Some particular groups might support this for political reasons, for instance, UKIP used this to secure the vote for independence from EU.

Multiculturalism, in fact, does bring some positive effects, instead of being a disaster.

Because of the respect for Muslims' way of life, British Muslims and the mainstream society can basically coexist in harmony. Compared with other European countries, the direct conflict between the two sides is less. Research in 2014 showed that people in the UK and France have a more positive attitude towards Muslims than other countries in Europe. This relatively harmonious

relationship has promoted the fusion of mainstream British society and Muslim culture. On the whole, this kind of policy seems to be a more feasible strategy to accept immigrants. It also builds a friendly and free environment to let citizens share their opinions.

It's also unacceptable to say all Muslims are extreme people without knowing them.

When we open YouTube or Google to search Muslims or Islam, many results are negative. The world seemingly has associated Muslims with terrorism. For example, when I first searched it, although there are some positive videos telling the misunderstanding, most results are negative. We might see that there are many extremist narratives. We might also

see that they are related with terrorism. However, this is just what people know from the web, and many people might not know one Muslim in real life. We can say that some terrorists believe in Islam, but we can't say all people who believe in Islam are terrorists. When I came to the UK, I met a Muslim girl in the plane. She is studying at university in Manchester, and I found her to be really a nice person. What I want say here is just that we must not deny someone just because how the most public think about his/her belief. If you want to judge someone, please try to know them at first.

The last thing I want to say is that when we have some extremist narratives, we might be wrong at that moment. For most things, there is not a clear boundary between the right and wrong. Please try to see the positive aspect of everyone.

Yunqi Huo