

[The Manchester terror attack](#) is a shocking example of how an extreme narrative can influence people to carry out inhumane and fatal acts of extreme violence. This extremely severe terrorist attack took away 22 people's life and caused panic to the masses in the United Kingdom. The extremist group ISIS claimed to be responsible for this terrorist attack through its news agency "Amaq".

This extremist group ISIS claims to be an Islamist organization and those inhuman terrorist attacks happened around the world fuel the anxiety of non-Muslims about Muslims, they are afraid of Muslims are all born to be terrorist, and innocent Muslims suffer injustice. ISIS deliberately choose the tenet of Islamism, that Allah is the lord of all the worlds and Allah gives people everything. ISIS makes selective interpretation of these classical religious texts. The precise use of the language in ISIS propaganda, with its extremist interpretation, made ISIS out to be an aggressive but scholarly enemy. For example, they consider "violence" as an acceptable act. Moreover, ISIS believes that "the final Day of Judgement by God and the arrival of Imam Mahdi are drawing near". The Quran and Hadith have discussed [the Islamic eschatology and apocalypticism](#), "killing will spread and time will accelerate" is what ISIS

insisted on. They also emphasis this in their recruitment.

In recent years, the ISIS propaganda has been more and more skillful in using [social media](#), broadcasting, website and other media. They have their own radio station which uses American English to broadcast to thousands of audiences in western society. ISIS also release their propagandist video on the Internet which purport to show the stability and unity of the people of their jurisdiction. They said their happy life is only thanks to Allah. The whole propagandist video conveys a concept that people can enjoy luxury life experience when they join ISIS. Overall, in those areas which under the control of ISIS, more than half of TV programs and radios shows a positive attitude towards ISIS, like these areas are full of happiness, food is in abundance, and have perfect facilities. They try to let those soldiers who want to join them have the feeling of belonging and caring, by showing them the relaxing life in ISIS.

However, according to the State Department of the United States, all their propaganda is a lie. The reality of ISIS is a disaster of society, humanity, and security. From those videos people can see online, ISIS are not only making wars, creating panic to the world, and killing

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#NOT IN MY NAME

people, they also shut down markets, factories and universities. Moreover, ISIS imposes heavy taxes and limits personnel and product flow. The lack of medications, water, and electricity caused the spread of disease, which puts local populations in a desperate position.

Actually, the ideologies that ISIS promote are contrary to the fundamental peaceful principles of Islamism, the Quran states that “if anyone killed a person, it would be as if he killed all mankind”. (The Holy Quran, 5:32). Muslims all over the world have spoken against the ideology of ISIS, with the campaign [# NOT IN MY NAME](#). Many Muslims have come together collectively and [marched against ISIS](#), and even help the government army to crush this extremist group. They did so to stand in defiance of fear-mongering and hate.

Only a few of extremists join ISIS. According to Wong (2017) the percentage of ISIS supporters in the Muslim population is less than 0.49%. This tells us that ISIS cannot represent Muslim, and nowhere near all Muslims are ISIS. ISIS has only borrowed some ideologies from Islam.



(photo credit: Xiaofan Li, 2017)

An undergraduate student at The University of Liverpool who experienced the terrorist attack in Manchester in 2017 told me that since that attack, she is afraid of Muslims and she is very wary of anyone who looks Muslim. It has made her misunderstand many of her Muslim friends. She said “Islamophobia” perfectly describes her.

I have an opposite view to Mandy. In my opinion, ISIS can't represent all Muslims. With the continuing rising of ISIS around the world, it is Muslims who suffer the most. So, it is unfair for most of the Muslims to suffer those prejudices and vicious abuses. In order to avoid misunderstanding them, I think we need to know more about the ideology of Muslims, rather than hating people without any evidence.

Reference: Shunleon, W., 2017. Available from: <https://www.quora.com/What-percentage-does-ISIS-make-up-of-the-Muslim-population> (Accessed: 24, May 2018)

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