

# MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT MUSLIM PEOPLE AND ISLAM: KEY WORDS

**Arab**

A member of an ethnic group of people who are originally from the Arabian Peninsula and who now live mostly in the Middle East and northern Africa.

**Burqa**

An enveloping outer garment worn by women in some Islamic traditions to cover their bodies when in public.

**Extremist**

A supporter or advocate of extreme doctrines or practices.

**Hijab**

A traditional scarf sometimes worn by Muslim women to cover the hair and neck and sometimes the face as a form of modest wear.

**Islam**

The religious faith of Muslims, based on the words and religious system founded by the prophet Muhammad and taught by the Quran; the basic principle of which is submission to an absolute, one God, Allah.

**Islamophobia**

Prejudice and/or discrimination against people who are or who are perceived to be Muslim and a fear or dislike of Islamic culture.

**ISIS (also known as ISIL or Daesh)**

The self-proclaimed “Islamic State” which began making news in 2014 when it conquered territory in Syria and Iraq. It has become notorious for its brutality, including mass killings, abductions and beheadings.

**Middle East**

Region in western Asia and northeast Africa that includes the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Palestinian territories and Turkey.

**Mosque**

A place of worship for Muslim people.

**Muslim**

A follower of the religion of Islam.

**Niqab**

A cloth that covers the face as a part of hijab that is worn by some Muslim women in public areas and in front of certain adult males.

**Quran**

The Muslim holy book which Muslims believe is the Last and Final Word of God and a message to all humankind. It is a collection of 114 chapters that were revealed to Prophet Muhammad through the Archangel Gabriel over a period of 23 years.

**Ramadan**

A month of strict fasting from dawn until dusk. It is believed that the first revelations of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad happened during the month of Ramadan.

**Sharia Law**

Islamic law, based on the Quran and the sayings and actions of the prophet Muhammad. For many Muslims, it includes the disciplines and principles that govern life and religious matters, which they believe God has legislated.

**Terrorism**

The unlawful use of threats, force and violence against noncombatant persons or property to intimidate or coerce in order to advance political objectives.

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