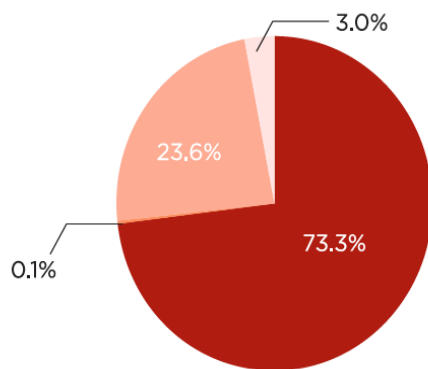


Nearly 3 in 4 Muslims state their only National Identity as British



- Other Identity and at least one UK Identity
- Other Identity Only
- Irish Identity
- British Only Identity (And/or at least one UK Identity)

What does this mean?

- An overwhelming majority, 73%, of the Muslim population in England and Wales consider British to be their only national identity, despite more than half (52.8%) of them born abroad.
- This 2011 Census finding is consistent with other academic studies and research. A YouGov poll (2014) found that 63% of British Muslims strongly agreed, or tended to agree, with the statement 'I am proud to be a British citizen and to be identified as part of this nation'. A University of Essex study (2013) found that Muslims identify with Britishness more than any other group of Britons – up to 83% were 'proud' to be a British citizen, compared to 79% of the general public; 77% strongly identify with Britain compared to 50% of the rest.
- Although the overwhelming majority of Muslims see their foremost national identity as 'British', further research is needed to understand what this really *means* for different Muslims. Research by Ali (2013) found that 'Britishness' and 'Belonging to Britain' had two key meanings for British Muslims: 1) a 'cultural' feeling (at ease) and 2) an 'affective' feeling (feel attached). British Muslims interpreted the question of belonging to Britain in different ways.

Sources:

British Muslims in Numbers (2015), www.mcb.org.uk/muslimstatistics

YouGov poll conducted for Islamic Relief, June 2014.

Understanding Society (2013), Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), NatCen Social Research, University of Essex.

<https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/2012/06/30/ethnic-minorities-living-in-the-uk-feel-more-british-than-white-britons>

Ali, Sundas (2013), Identities and Sense of Belonging of Muslims in Britain: Using Survey Data, Cognitive Survey Methodology, and In-Depth Interviews. DPhil Thesis. Department of Sociology, University of Oxford, April 2013.