

# AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT BAPTIST NEWSLETTER

Dr David C. Bennett, Editor

2Timothy 4:2 *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”*

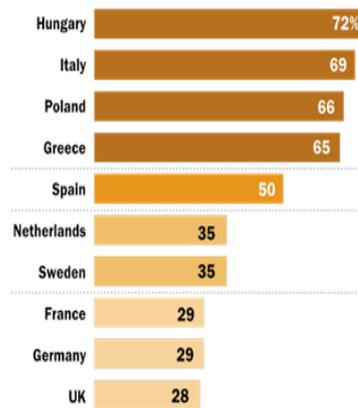
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<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/05/26/muslims-and-islam-key-findings-in-the-u-s-and-around-the-world/> May 26, 2017

It is interesting to read that ‘There were 1.8 billion Muslims in the world as of 2015 – roughly 24% of the global population – according to a Pew Research Center estimate. But while Islam is currently the world’s second-largest religion (after Christianity), it is the fastest-growing major religion. Indeed, if current demographic trends continue, the number of Muslims is expected to exceed the number of Christians by the end of this century.’ In ‘a Pew Research Center survey of Muslims in 39 countries asked Muslims whether they want sharia

## Views of Muslims more negative in eastern and southern Europe

Unfavorable view of Muslims in our country



Note: In Poland, question was asked of a subsample of 686 respondents.

Source: Spring 2016 Global Attitudes Survey, Q36c.

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law, a legal code based on the Quran and other Islamic scripture, to be the official law of the land in their country. Responses on this question vary widely. Nearly all Muslims in Afghanistan (99%) and most in Iraq (91%) and Pakistan (84%) support sharia law as official law. But in some other countries, especially in Eastern Europe and Central Asia – including Turkey (12%), Kazakhstan (10%) and Azerbaijan (8%) – relatively few favor the implementation of sharia law.’ There are two major divisions within Islam. ‘Sunnis and Shiites are two subgroups of Muslims, just as Catholics and Protestants are two subgroups within Christianity. The Sunni-Shiite divide is nearly 1,400 years old, dating back to a dispute over the succession of leadership in the Muslim community following the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 632. While the two groups agree on some core tenets of Islam, there are differences in beliefs and practices, and in some cases Sunnis do not consider Shiites to be Muslims.

With the exception of a few countries, including Iran (which is majority Shiite) as well as Iraq and Lebanon (which are split), most nations with a large number of Muslims have more Sunnis than Shiites. In the U.S., 65% identify as Sunnis and 11% as Shiites (with the rest identifying with neither group, including some who say they are “just a Muslim”).’

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-02/18c-needed-for-social-harmony-southphommasane/8236122>

February 2, 2017 Donald Trump’s Presidential win has Australia’s Race Discrimination Commissioner Dr Tim Southphommasane saying that what he is hearing “...from many communities is rising concern as a result of the populism that we see in the United States and elsewhere, and there is anxiety about that spilling over into Australia”. He argues ‘that now more than ever, the nation needs to back the Racial Discrimination Act.’ He believes ‘the Act, including the contentious section 18C, strikes the right balance between protecting people from racial vilification while guaranteeing freedom of speech.’

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-11-04/18c-racial-vilification-case-facebook-qut-thrown-out/7996580> 4 November, 2016 ‘Section 18c of the Racial Discrimination Act makes it unlawful for someone to do an act that is reasonably likely to “offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate” someone because of their race or ethnicity.’ For instance, Section 18c was used in

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a recent case where 3 University students were accused of racially vilifying an indigenous woman. Fortunately, the judge threw the case out. When was the last time you were offended?

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4616436/Safe-Schools-founder-says-half-young-people-gay.html>

The LGBT crowd is still beating their drum. ‘A controversial Marxist lesbian academic who believes primary school children should choose their own gender claims half of all young people are gay.

Roz Ward, who until recently ran the Safe Schools Coalition gender theory program in Victoria, said same-sex attraction was more widespread than commonly believed.

“It’s more like 40 to 50 per cent of young people who are not exclusively attracted to the opposite sex,” she told a Pride Week event.

Her assertion is not supported by Census data, with the Australian Bureau of Statistics reporting that only 0.7 per cent of couples - or just 33,714 relationships nationwide - in 2011 were gay.

The La Trobe University gender theory lecturer controversially admitted last year she had taught primary school pupils the idea they can choose their own gender.’

Thankfully, ‘State governments from both sides of politics in New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania have left the national Safe School program to develop their own anti-bullying programs.’

I guess parents are supposed to feel better now because ‘Safe Schools is now limited to high schools, after the review found the material was unsuitable for primary-school aged children.’

[http://www.slate.com/blogs/outward/2014/06/16/allstate\\_s\\_safe\\_in\\_my\\_hands\\_gay\\_pride\\_ad\\_is\\_raw\\_moving.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/outward/2014/06/16/allstate_s_safe_in_my_hands_gay_pride_ad_is_raw_moving.html)

Continuing on the LGBT theme the Allstate Insurance slogan is “You’re in good hands with Allstate”. Therefore, it was interesting that this Allstate commercial from 2014 seems to be looking to make the so-called “gay experience...palpable” to customers and television viewers.



<https://www.allstate.com/diversity/pride.aspx> ‘PRIDE aims to promote a positive and inclusive environment for employees, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity...’

Unfortunately, some think by promoting this unnatural lifestyle ‘Allstate can become a preferred insurer and employer within the LGBTQ community.’ It might be time to change insurers.



Because of Calvary,  
David C. Bennett

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