

Muslim Responses

Muslims cannot refuse peace if it is offered. If the other side surrenders,

HOW MUSLIMS PROMOTE PEACE

Inner peace - being fully obedient to Allah and being a good Muslim is most important.

Islam is a peaceful religion but not pacifist. They allow violence in self-defence. Muslim peace fellowship works to promote peace within Islam.

Compare with

"Do not contribute to your destruction. Do good for God loves those who do good."

MUSLIM RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE

God created all life on Earth. We must protect the environment.

It is acceptable to fight in self-defence or for a just cause.

"Do not kill each other, for God is merciful to you."
You will 'suffer fire' if you fight out of hostility and injustice.

When is war acceptable?



GREED: God does not like arrogant, boastful people. War to gain something is unacceptable.

RETALIATION: Can be acceptable but never too harsh. Allah understands the need for justice but forgiveness is the best option.



SELF-DEFENCE: Acceptable if you are protecting the weak and innocent.



JIHAD



GREATER: A Muslim's internal struggle to be the best Muslim possible. This may include following the 5 pillars correctly.



LESSER: The struggle to defend Islam from threat. It cannot be used against innocent people so would not allow terrorism.



Helping the victims of war

War can leave innocent people without a home or the basics. These Muslim agencies help:



Help people escaping from Syria. Find them food, water + shelter.

Muslim Aid have set up the Betty orphanage in Turkey to look after



orphaned children from Syria



Peace and Conflict





Christian Responses

Quakers are a group of Christians who believe in no violence at all. They will not allow violence in self-defence. Quakers believe you can fight for what is right in different ways without using violence.

Jesus said "blessed are the peace makers!" Christianity has always been a religion of peace. Some pacifists have been accused of cowardice. Men refusing to fight were handed white feathers.

The Bible says that money is the root of all evil. It would not be OK to fight for gain only self-defence.



The NT says not to be afraid of war because they will take place.

"Turn the other cheek" used to settle individual disputes but doesn't work in war which involves lots of people.

St Paul says to live in peace with everyone "if possible". "A time for love and a time for war." suggests sometimes it is time for war.

Protest, Terrorism + WMD:
 Some things are worth fighting for but you can fight without violence. MLK is a great example of this.
 Nuclear weapons cannot be used but can act as a good deterrent.
 "Live at peace with everyone" means no terrorism. It harms innocent people.
 Some Christians may justify violence against atrocities i.e. to stop Hitler.



Helping the Victims of war:
 Caritas - Catholic Aid Agency who help all over world.
 Working during the Syrian Civil War to help rehome refugees.
 They work to give out food, hygiene, medical care, clothes.
 The Pope said Christians should do this because "The greatest gift we can offer one another is love."



Just War Theory - History:
 Man with his book and Church - St Thomas Aquinas!
 1: Early Christians = Pacifist but Romans needed their army.
 2: Key philosophers Augustine and Aquinas came up with a theory to allow Christians to be peaceful but still fight.
 3: They said leaders are chosen by God so if a leader says war is OK, then it is supported by God.



Peace and Conflict



KEY WORDS:

- War** → Fighting between nations to resolve issues.
- Peace** → An absence of conflict and fighting.
- Justice** → Bringing about what is right and fair.
- Holy War** → A war fought in the name of religion.
- Weapons of Mass Destruction** → WMD - weapons that kill large numbers indiscriminately.

Nuclear Weapons:

Debates: should countries have weapons capable of such destruction?

Do they act as a good deterrent?

Should we take into account the destruction of the environment?

At the moment, there is a civil war in Syria. Many countries in the world are involved. Some chemical weapons have been used.



Just War Theory:

Theory used internationally to figure out if a potential war is justified. It gives conditions such as:

- Is the war declared by the right authority?
- Is there a good reason for the war? Not greed or revenge.
- Is there a good chance of success?

Many have argued that WW2 was justified as it was important to remove the threat of Hitler and the Nazis.

Issues Surrounding War



KEY WORDS:

- Protest** → An expression of disapproval.
- Terrorism** → The use of violence against innocent people to incite fear for a particular cause.
- Radicalisation** → the process of causing someone to adopt radical positions on political + social issues
- Extremism** → Holding extreme political or religious views.

Terrorism:

A very extreme form of protest. Use of violence to spread fear. Not supported by any religions. Causes widespread devastation and destruction.



Protest: → A right to protest in the UK - but not violently. → peaceful protest can turn violent if people feel threatened. → A riot is an out of control protest.

What is worth fighting for?



Radicalisation:

Extreme religious or political groups attempt to convert others to their cause. They may do this online and persuade others to join them.



Examples:

- MLK - peaceful protest to increase black rights.
- Bonhoeffer - allow violence to remove bigger issues - Hitler.