

GALLUP AND THE MUSLIM WEST FACTS INITIATIVE

The World in Poll is the flagship operation of the Gallup organization. For the first time, Gallup have included in it a section covering the opinions of people in some 35 predominantly or partly Muslim countries. Issues covered include democracy, extremism and women's rights.

The results reveal some surprising - and for many Westerners perhaps counter-intuitive - facts about the opinions and aspirations of a representative sample of more than a billion Muslims. For example, the replies to questions about what people most and least admire about Western society overall bear a marked similarity to those given in a separate poll of public opinion in the USA.

Below is the link to the home page for the Gallup publication "Who Speaks for Islam?", which summarizes the results of the Muslim section of the World Poll survey. The significance of these results, in Gallup's view, is that they represent the opinions of Muslims themselves, as opposed to what other academics and "experts" think Muslims think. This view has led Gallup to develop the Muslim West Facts project, in partnership with the London-based inter-faith organization Coexist. The project aims to disseminate information about the data in the Gallup poll, as a contribution to ensuring that the debate on Muslim/West relations and the so-called "clash of civilizations" is better informed.

To support this effort, Gallup have appointed two "special representatives", Henry Hogger, a former British diplomat, and Salman Shaikh, a former UN negotiator, to help increase awareness among "opinion leaders" in Europe of the data contained in the Gallup survey. The aim is to achieve this by briefing key politicians, academics, editors, business people, etc, on the results of the survey and urging them to use the information in speeches, lectures, and so on, so as to produce a wider public awareness of these results.

The special representatives will also be briefing their contacts about the outcome of a separate poll among Muslim communities in London, Paris and Berlin, conducted by Gallup between 2006 and 2007. This contains some interesting insights into the attitudes of Muslims in these European cities towards their host countries: for example, answers to questions about the importance people attach respectively to religion and country show that

Muslims in Europe are no less attached to their country of residence - and in some cases more so - than the general public in the three countries as a whole. The information from this survey should be of interest to those in Europe who are concerned about relations between Muslim and other communities within their own countries.

A new Gallup survey has been completed and will soon be released, covering Muslim opinions in Britain, France and Germany as a whole.

[Home Page for Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think](#)