

# WHY I LEFT ISLAM

**Powerful testimonies  
by former Muslims.**

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Check the website for the latest edition. If you have suggestions for improvements, please email: [hellish2050@gmail.com](mailto:hellish2050@gmail.com)

Ex-Muslims are especially welcome to make contact. Would you like your own experience to be included in the next edition?

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# INTRODUCTION

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The testimonies of ex-Muslims are powerful indeed. They have studied Islam, lived it, and for a time believed it and defended it. They really do know what they are talking about. Look up on YouTube “Why I left Islam”, and you will find many ex-Muslims giving powerful testimony.

Mohammed is regarded by Muslims as the perfect man. This supposedly perfect man kept sex slaves, as is well documented in mainstream Islamic scriptures. One significant reason why Muslims turn away from Islam is that they find its teachings morally repugnant.

As you look at the example set by these courageous people, see if you can observe a pattern. Is it mainly the moral repugnance with Islam that is the key motivator? Is there also the seeking for truth? The unwillingness to live a lie. A rejection of the scientific absurdities in the Koran. A desire to join the rest of humanity for a better world for us all, and for the future generations. We must hope that Human Rights can become truly universal.

What started as a trickle of those leaving Islam is developing into a flood. Particularly among the younger generation, abandoning Islam is becoming more normal. In the UK around a quarter of young Muslims are leaving. And they should be helped and supported in doing so. At the back of this book there is the section “Key Resources”. This is a list of organisations that work in this area. If you are not directly able to help with the task of assisting ex-Muslims, then at least give a donation to these organisations. Their work is important. Important not just for the people they directly help, but it will also have a significant positive effect on the whole of society. It is often the more intelligent, better educated people who leave Islam. Islam cannot continue to exist if this “brain drain” increases.

The important message for Muslims who are contemplating taking the significant step is this: you are not alone. There are many who do care about your plight. Even if they do not (yet) know you personally, please feel that there is a warmth and encouragement out there for you. If an ex-Muslim would like to write about their experience, then it can be included in the next edition of this book. Of course your anonymity will be preserved, and so use a pseudonym. If you would like to have your testimony added, make contact via email: [hellish2050@gmail.com](mailto:hellish2050@gmail.com) Ex-Muslims give us hope for a brighter future for us all. We must admire their courage, perseverance, and honesty. Come and join the rest of humanity, to live in genuine peace!

## A Whole Family Left Islam

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Daughter: *So, I was brought up in a pretty relaxed environment. Most of my childhood my mom was a single mother and religion wasn't really the central part of our lives. She was too busy trying to provide for me and my little brother, who has autism. For most of my life that was sort of the reality like, oh, sometimes we go to the masjid and pray, and sometimes we pray, maybe 2 or 3 times at home. Things sort of changed when my mom married my step-dad and he was a convert to Islam, so he was a bit more zealous than we were. And it was a bit of a departure from what we were used to because now you're praying more frequently you're becoming more a part of the Muslim community.*

Mother: *For a while that was a problem, he was a bit more, you know, sort of concerned with all the rules and laws, and this madhab that thing, and malikis do it this way, and I'm like, in India it's all a big mush thing. You know, like, you don't really - you take the best of whatever you can see. So, I think that was a source of friction for us, the extremes that he was willing to go with diet, and we weren't allowed to eat milano cookies all of a sudden.*

Father: *No vanilla extract.*

Mother: *No vanilla extract.*

Father: *It has alcohol.*

Mother: *This soy sauce is suspect. That sort of thing made everyday living difficult.*

Father: *Well, I was raised a Catholic and went to church, did communion, all that. So fast-forward a bit to college, I became involved in activism against the Iraq war. And met a lot of good friends. We fought the good fight together, but we lost. And a lot of those friends were Muslim, and in my attempts to make sense of what happened, I really began looking at Islam and from what I understood of it at the time, what I had read about it — it really did seem like a true, rational monotheism — a focus on ethics, it didn't have all the abstruse theological questions that Christianity had about the trinity, and how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, and all that nonsense. So, it really appealed to me. And then any of the unsavory aspects I could just dismiss as something that is a problem with fundamentalists, and I'm surely not a fundamentalist. But then I went on a trip to Pakistan for a wedding, and when I came back I became much more*

*religions. I started to really study the religion more deeply. Started learning Arabic, and... before I knew it, I was defending opinions that I would have excoriated myself.*

*As part of the process of examining the religion, I started to really look at the core sources of Islam: looking more deeply at the Quran and the Hadith, and fiqh, which is religious law. I even studied at a madrasa for a couple years, part-time and again, I realized that all these horrible things about women, LGBT people about non-believers this was not just an aspect of fundamentalism it was also part and parcel of traditional Islam itself and I couldn't defend it any more. So, what was really disturbing was that I realized inwardly that I didn't believe this any more. I was actually still teaching at an Islamic school at the time so that was also a complication because this is my livelihood — how I support my family, and then looking at my family itself Islamic law itself says that a Non-Muslim man cannot be married to a Muslim woman. So I'm just terrified that if my wife finds out that, that's going to be the end. We'll get divorced, I won't have as much access to my kids. I won't be able to spend as much time with them. I was very terrified about that, so I started actually bringing up little criticisms, and I was thinking that was clever and slowly sowing doubt.*

*Mother: I remember he told me all the historical inaccuracies. And that really sort — you know, you questions certain things and you know, you sort of explain it by saying: 'oh, it's a text written at that time', this that, but no one ever asked me those kind of questions that made me realize it's inaccurate. It's just wrong. This is not when this happened. So, then that whole idea of it being untouchable, the Quran that sort of shattered and after that it was just: there's no going back, really you just can't believe again.*

*Father: As a Muslim I was constantly worried about this tremendous duty I have to my kids not just to provide for them, not just to try and be a good example for them but I also have to make sure that they observe all these little rituals — follow all these rules, and if they don't then they'll be punished, I'll be punished. And it's not conducive to having a healthy relationship with yours kids.*

*Mother: The real thing for me is, was she kind, is she going to be curious about life. And religion doesn't allow you to ask questions, especially does not allow women to ask questions. It does not give them avenues to be curious.*

Daughter: *The day I left my faith was when I was 16 between sophomore and junior high school. I was sleeping in on a Saturday morning, as I'm apt to do and my mom sort of shuffles into the room and tries to wake me up.*

Mother: *We were waiting for that child to wake up. We had decided in the morning and it's like - it's the afternoon, she's not waking up. And we had amped ourselves up to say it.*

Daughter: *Then she says, "So, yeah, we're not really Muslim any more." "You can leave Islam with us, but maybe you should think about it. And that of course kind of rang in my ears a little bit because it had never occurred to me before that leaving Islam was an option despite how bitter I was towards it. For a lot of ex-Muslims deciding whether or not you want to leave is a very long process. It takes years to kind of come to terms with it, but for me, it was just like the first chance I got. It was kind of a snap decision.*

Father: *What really surprised me was that the revelation that she was to a great extent humoring us the whole time.*

Mother: *Yes! Yeah.*

Father: *But that's a pleasant surprise, to be honest.*

Mother: *I was like, gosh, we were doing this to her, putting this on her this whole time because she was just almost like she didn't even think. We were sort of reassuring her: "Look even though we don't believe any more you don't have to agreed with us. We will help you." I was thinking that I was going to take her to the mosque if she wants to go, even though we were never mosque going people. I was willing to sort of just — I was ready to accept anything she said. I just was not expecting her to be like: "Yeah, of course, I would leave this behind as well."*

Father: *And she started texting everybody.*

Mother: *It was just immediate and apparently she's had all these doubts and questions, but she was sort of trying to be sensitive to us.*

Daughter: *Right after the day of my apostasy I sort of noticed more my parents happily swapping books on atheism and I feel like through this shared experience of leaving religion we've become more closer and more warmer as a family. Just because we can talk about things now a little more, there are no secrets or anything. I still feel some of the negative impacts from religion. For example, showing skin. I still feel like twinges of shame and embarrassment if I wear short dresses or skirts or shorts. That and being in a romantic relationship — whenever I hang out with my*

*boyfriend or hold his hand in public. There's also — I struggled a lot with my bi-sexuality and sort of coming to terms with that. Around the beginning of high school I noticed I was having crushes on girls as well as boys. And just from, like... I guess religious settings you're not supposed to like the same sex. When I realized I was having these crushes I felt like this weird self-disgust like I was creepy and stuff, and that stayed with me a lot even after leaving. It sort of took me a while to accept that a bit. I think 2 years later I came out properly to my parents and they were very supportive, but it was just this weird sort of... self-battle that I had to come to terms with it. If I were still a Muslim I would be very different than how I was now because I feel like ever since I left... I've become more confident as a person and open to new ideas because being in a religion that mandates that you follow certain beliefs sort of cuts you off from other ideas, and other people talking about them.*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDZ\\_LatHPSE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDZ_LatHPSE)

## Abdullah Sameer

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Abdullah was raised as an Ismaili Muslim. He was excited by Islam, praying, and studied it in depth. He got married, and was working. He would pray to the best of his ability. He was surprised that much of the Koran is derived from Jewish folk tales, in other words they were not divinely inspired. His doubts started at this point, and became more severe. The scientific absurdities in Islamic scriptures added to his doubts. He came to realise that the Koran could not have come from a divine being.

*“There came a point in my life when I was having a little bit of doubt here and there. It was two years ago I had doubts. I was discussing with a friend online and he mentioned that a lot of the stories in the Koran come from Jewish folk tales. And I was very surprised about that. Jewish folk tales? No, no, you mean it came from the Bible? Or the Hebrew Torah? And when I looked into it actually a lot of the stories are from the Talmud. Which is actually the Jewish commentary and the Jewish stories – basically the Rabbis – it is commentary of the traditions. And so it doesn't really have a divine origin. And I really had a problem of the story of Dhul-Qarnayn, where he trapped this tribe of people, Gog and Magog behind a giant gate built of copper and iron, and I was wondering – where is this place? How come we can't find it? We have Google Earth and all that, how come we can't find it? So that was another doubt. And I left Islam for one day. Then you know what – I'm going to put my doubts to one side. I'm Muslim, I want to go to Jannah, I want to be a Muslim for one more year.*

*Then last year is when I truly left Islam for good... The Sheikh was saying that Allah is holding up the sky without any pillars. And this brought back all my doubts about – if the Koran is truly from God, the creator of the universe, the one that knows all things, why is he describing the world in a way that is the 7<sup>th</sup> century understanding of the world? OK we know that the sky doesn't have any pillars that you can see. But there's no need for pillars. It is a ball in space. The sky is just emptiness in space. There is no need for pillars, visible or invisible. And there's many things like that – the orbit of the sun and the moon. Why does Allah describe the orbit of the sun AND of the moon? [Mohammed] says that the sun goes beneath the throne of Allah... Eventually my doubts grew and I said: this can't be from God. I don't believe in this any more... There is no possibility that the Koran is from a divine being.”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=998BYtflacs>

# Ali

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Ali was born in Iran in an environment influenced by Islam. When the 1979 Islamic revolution happened he left for the USA. He was not particularly interested in any religion. When he met his wife-to-be, a strong Christian, he admitted that he had never set foot inside a church. He had seen so much religiously inspired turmoil in his country that he was wary of it. His wife's strong faith inspired him and he began to see the light.

He was baptised in 2019.

*"I was born in an Islamic influenced environment. That revolution happened in Iran and an Islamic republic took over the country. When I came to the United States I did not pursue any religions, and I was not interested in going after one and study about one."*

He had never set foot in a church in Iran. There was so much turmoil in that country.

*"When I met my wife at work [in the USA] and when she talked about Christianity and Jesus to me. She is so confident and strong about her opinions that she does not need to lie. She does not need to lie because she is connected to the truth. I love that about her and I wanted to get to know her more. I basically owe everything to her."*

*"I saw that this can be a life-changing experience for me."*

Why I Left Islam for Christ: Ali's Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4HDFKjqlxM>

## An ex-Muslim from Iran

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A mass baptism in Hamburg, Germany of ex-Muslims from Iran and Afghanistan. One of the participants says:

*"In Iran I was a civil servant with a good house and a car. But I couldn't believe in Mohammed. When they found out I lost everything."*

*"In Islam a woman is a slave. A woman belongs to a man and a man can do whatever he wants with her. I can marry a woman for one week, for one day or for one hour... There are mullahs who will do this for you .. And they give you the woman... And my wife has no say at all... she can't go to the police - they'll say 'no problem.'"*

*"I am a human being. But my wife is a human being too. I have rights and so does she."*

Former Muslim on his conversion to Christianity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52JqvtmNSfU>

## Anisa

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Her father is Muslim and her mother is Catholic. In her early years she was raised as a Muslim, attending the Mosque, praying, etc. Then as she grew older she realised that religion itself is too restrictive, and she left Islam. It was hard to tell her father, and it put a strain on the relationship. After the stresses and difficulties she feels that the family is now stronger.

*“Now I know that a lot of people are expecting me to bash the religion completely and talk about how awful Islam is in general, and that is really not what I am here to do. I would really like to clarify first that yes, we were very active at the mosque, we went every Friday that we could go. We fasted during Ramadan... We were raised very Muslim...”*

*I started to realise that maybe life isn't the way it was mapped out or told by my parents. And I started to wonder if maybe I wasn't getting the whole picture. Now anybody who is exposed to more than their own parents' ideologies will get the shock of their lives when they talk to people about what they think when people die, what they think about religion, is there a heaven or hell? You are not ready for those conversations, because you have been told a certain thing all your life and you believe it as fact. And when those conversations start to happen you really start to question a lot of things. And that is definitely what happened to me. And I want to put it out there – it is completely normal if you are someone who is going through questioning your faith... it is completely normal, but you should really investigate your feelings...*

*I don't think it is the specific faith that had me feeling in the way that I felt. I think, whether it is Christianity, Judaism, Islam, whatever, I think there are always things in religions that are restricting, and always compromise the individual. I think if you are truly seeking to be an individual, and seeking getting to know yourself, and be in you, having any sort of label, especially a religion, is incredibly dangerous. And that is pretty much what I arrived at... I really started to realise that – all religion is – especially in today's day and age – is limitations. Limitation on friends choice, clothing choice, behavioural choice, food choice... Do you know how shitty it was to grow up and not be able to eat marshmallows? That is ass! Was it an easy decision to arrive at? Absolutely not...”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huB29gXkf0Q>

## Apostate Prophet

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“Apostate Prophet” was born in Germany to a family of Turkish immigrants. His parents were in a Sufi order within Sunni Islam. He was indoctrinated with intolerance and fear. 9/11 was a point at which he started to open his eyes. It was an obstacle for him. His family moved back to Turkey, and he did not fit in at all. In particular he strongly disagreed with Islamic attitudes towards women. He became increasingly religious, and started studying the Koran. He started having doubts because of its attitude to women, and that it just disagrees with modern understanding of science. For example the sun setting in a muddy spring (the sun is about a million times bigger than the earth). He just found the Koran to be weird. And it brought up so many questions. Shouldn't Allah be telling us about the universe? Why is it so intolerant of non-Muslims?

Why are Human Rights lacking in the Islamic world? Why was Allah not familiar with sunrise and sunset in northern latitudes. How can I be blamed for using my mind?

He left Islam gradually, he did not want virgins in paradise. He realised that he was more moral than Allah and Mohammed. *“I do not believe in Allah. I am not a Muslim.”*

*“Later I became much more confident. At first when I lost my faith I felt joy and happiness. Then I went into a deep and long phase of depression. Everything I lived for was suddenly gone. The ground under my feet disappeared. My dear god was a lie. I became hopeless, sad, depressed, angry. I wanted to commit suicide, but I didn't. I wanted to define my own life and my own purpose from now on. I wanted to live for myself, for the people around me, for the world. I want to make my life better, help people around me, help create better lives, and help others. Once I left Islam and started to be independent, my whole view on life and everything changed. As someone who spent a lot of time thinking, and trying to be impartial and fair, I developed a far better sense of right and wrong than Islam had given me. And I felt far more at peace with life and everything in the world. I left Islam and I'm happy. Happier than ever. I don't need Islam telling me what to do and not to do, with the one life, the one brain, the one body that I have.”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBGn9KHx50k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zT8jv6lZF0g>

## Ayaan Hirsi Ali

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Ayaan grew up in Somalia. She managed to escape to the Netherlands – she did not want to marry the man who she had been set up to marry. She is very actively campaigning against Islam and its associated evils such as Female Genital Mutilation, which she has been subjected to. Her friend the Dutch film maker Theo van Gogh was murdered in 2004 by a Muslim, in response to the film *Submission* which they had made together to highlight the mistreatment of women in Islam. Ayaan received death threats too, and sought refuge in the USA, where she continues the task of highlighting the problems of Islam. She is a courageous woman, and is deserving of our respect for all the work that she has done, and her perseverance in the face of adversity. AHA Foundation: <https://www.theahafoundation.org/>

*“I think when you are in the middle of brutality, and when you are born into it, and when you experience it, when you are in a world where it is not only about brutality. You know, people get killed. My grandmother believed in evil spirits. She had been genitally mutilated and all that. She was also a very loving, dear woman. And I understood that. So the term 'brutality, extremism', that did not exist in my vocabulary. But when you get, unlike my grandmother, my mother, unlike a lot of people I know, when you get access to a lot of education, mental and especially intellectual stimulation you get in touch with your reason. You no longer have an excuse to say: 'you know what, I am going to...' My grandmother has the excuse and the bliss that ignorance brings. I don't have that excuse. So when on the 11<sup>th</sup> September my mother made a plea: if you are a true Muslim then stand up. Islam is being attacked. You have to stand up and defeat it. After having gone to university, after having taken account of the alternative, I no longer had the reason to say: 'you know what, I am just going to put my head in the sand. These hurt. I'm going to follow him, or I am going into a paralysis of denial, or I'm going to make all sorts of excuses. When I opened the Koran and I saw his citations and I put it to what the Koran says, and the Hadith and so on, I can't agree with this. And I don't want to agree with it. I think it's inhuman. That put me immediately on a mental discord with myself, with my upbringing, with my religion, that I was an infidel. And I had to deal with that. And I had to tell everyone: it's not easy...”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0txwUT8Csh4>

## Brother Ishmael

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Brother Ishmael has for years been a Muslim who worked hard to spread the message of Islam. He was a scholar and preacher. Few have worked as hard to defend Mohammed, and to do so publicly. In the end, he found that Mohammed and his actions cannot be defended — the actions and teachings of Mohammed are morally repugnant. Ishmael has stated one of the reasons he left Islam:

*"[because of] the Koran and Mohammed, and their teachings on moral standards and conduct. You see, over the past few years I have found that I am no longer able to defend the Koran and especially Mohammed's morals and conduct. In the past I have done my best to defend Islam and in particular to defend Mohammed from the claims and charges made against him. I tried my best to love Mohammed, and I can prove that I stood up for him and defended him many times... As shocking as it may seem, both the Koran and Mohammed teach that it's permissible, Halal, to capture and rape female war captives, even if these women are married and their non-Muslim husbands are still alive. [i.e., it is not regarded as adultery in this case] So let's investigate the Islamic sources to see what they say: The Koran ...informs Muslim men about the categories of women who they are forbidden ... 'except those whom your right hands possess'."*

*"No sane person in his or her right mind could defend the Koran and Mohammed on this issue. This is nothing more than legalised rape of married women, and I cannot believe that this is from God. So therefore I am rejecting the Koran and Mohammed on this issue. Now you have some idea why I left Islam."*

Ishmael is courageous — the penalty for leaving Islam is death. See his video: "[Why I left Islam](#)", on YouTube channel "[Don'tConvert2Islam](#)". Forcing a religion upon someone with threats of violence itself demonstrates the weakness of that religion, not its strength.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DR7\\_YQ53lfi](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DR7_YQ53lfi)

## Brother Rachid

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Rachid was born and raised as a Muslim in Morocco. His father was the Imam of a Mosque. As a teenager he listened to a Christian radio programme, and corresponded with them - out of curiosity, and to argue the case for Islam. He examined whether Jesus was crucified or not. He realised that Islam has no ground to stand on this question.

Brother Rashid is focusing on his ministry to Muslim Arabs. Here is his website: <https://brotherrachid.com/> He has written books including "[The Ideology Behind Islamic Terrorism](#)".

*"I chose one of the topics – for example the Crucifixion. Was Jesus crucified or somebody else instead of him? And I said – this is a very good topic because Christians believe he was crucified, Muslims believe that he wasn't. And probably there are arguments for both sides. And I need to be the judge here. Show them which arguments has the more credibility, more weight, more logic in to them. And this topic just shook the ground of my faith actually. Because when I started comparing I was pretty sure that Islam has the right narrative, the right story. But when I started digging I found quite the opposite. Islam doesn't have any ground to stand on this topic. For example, if we say that Jesus was not crucified, can we name who was crucified in stead of him? And I found out that Muslim scholars have no clue. And then if he was not crucified – when did the change, this resemblance happen? When did it happen? A year before the crucifixion? A month? A week? A day? An hour? We have no clue. And so probably Jesus lived a year as a fake person – another person instead of Jesus – probably he lived a month or a day. So, I mean there is no clear answer to this question. So I asked the 5 Ws: when and why and who and where and all these questions and I couldn't find an answer. Where did the change happen – in Jerusalem? In another city? Nothing. No clue. The Muslim scholars are just making assumptions, based on a verse in the Koran that is very ambiguous – it doesn't give you details. The Christians have four Gospels, four witnesses from the first century, and they give you actually the location, the time, who was there, and why they crucified him. They give you all the answers. So I say: if I am a judge, come on. I have a guy who didn't answer any of my questions when I ask him: 'who was crucified?' he answers: 'I don't know.' When? Where 'I don't know.' And I have 4 people on the other side who say 'We know when he was crucified'... If I am a judge I have to give credit to who deserves it..."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1EJ767Tc5Q>

## Candee Zarah

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Candee had problems with the Church and Christian theology, and so converted to Islam. She later left Islam. Here are a few extracts from her video, but the video does cover significantly more than these points:

*"I am not trashing anybody's religion. This is just me, my journey, my opinion – how I felt, how I feel, what I noticed, what I didn't like what I didn't agree with, etc. etc.. Could I be wrong? Yes. But all you can do is trust that God is guiding us on the right path, the right way, and use our brains and use our hearts and pray and follow our spirits and so that is what it is. So if I say something offensive to you because you come from a place that is me just being: ooh I'm so smart, I know better, whatever. My Muslim followers if you think: she is really saying these things about Islam – no, I give it to my Christian friends and Christianity just as hard core.. I want to share my journey out of the Church, away from Christ, into Islam, and back to Christ..."*

*I always had the struggle: in Islam Jesus is the son of Mary, he is not the son of God. And if he is the son of God it is just this idea that we are all the son of God in a not at all literal way. There is no divinity in Jesus at all. But for me there is always but I feel like the Messiah was just a little bit more than human..."*

*I did go ahead and say my Shahada but I learned after I took my Shahada that I didn't do the whole – if you leave Christianity and become a Muslim you are supposed to put up your right finger and denounce that Jesus is the son of God nor is he God..."*

*After 6 to 8 weeks I began to think this is not for me, because during my prayers I would never pray the whole part: God has no son, God is not begotten nor does he beget. Finally I got real with myself: look if you can't not believe that Jesus is not the son of God and quite possibly divine – if you cannot shake that then you are not a Muslim... And so I made the choice to leave Islam... In Islam I did not feel settled and at peace and OK because my idea of God was forced to change. I could not believe that God was my loving father who personally wanted a relationship with me who would die if he so decided that that's what it took..."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VRcVKJXZ8w>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQuM\\_NZBHNA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQuM_NZBHNA)

## Dania A

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Dania is British Syrian, with devout Muslim parents. Though outwardly conforming to Islam, whilst growing up she was frustrated not to get answers from her parents to questions such as, ‘Will a good person who isn’t Muslim go to Hell?’ She began to feel Islam was exclusive and her inner conflict became intense: *‘I left Islam because there was so much inner conflict. I felt so hypocritical’*. She knew she was just going through the motions, but was nervous of turning her back on the faith of her family and afraid of the prospect of Hell.

One night she opened the Quran and read ‘Hypocrites are the worst kind of people’. She decided to commit to *‘doing good genuinely’* and to let the truth come to her, to lead her back to Islam – but says this has not happened, and it’s now been over five years. She explains she has made peace with her uncertainty:

*‘I am not religious. I am somewhat spiritual. I meditate... My interest is in liberating myself and finding the limitations of my mind, because intellect cannot fathom what created us. We cannot disprove or prove that there is a god. I’m just living with that... I’m trusting my heart and my instincts. The main reason why I choose to live this way now is because it feels genuine. I feel inclusive of everyone, from all kinds of backgrounds, and I’m able to connect with any person, with any belief... Most of all, I feel more at peace. It’s scary. I admit that I don’t know all the answers... but it’s important for me to live as honestly as possible.’*

*Why I left Islam*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0MTxe9-W-E>

## Deborah

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Deborah converted to Islam, and has now left it. She grew up in the West. She became increasingly unhappy with the treatment of women. Women are regarded as the property of her husband. They cannot have real rights under Islam.

*"I am just starting this whole ex-Muslim thing, it is all new to me. My voice is important because I come from the West and I grew up here. I put myself in the whole Islamic situation. I can see what both sides were like. All the talk about how women are treated in Pakistan – these are the laws. You can't enforce these laws when the whole government is pretty much Muslim – because Islam views women as possessions. As property that needs to be controlled... You see how blasphemy laws aren't really implemented but the people rise up and take care of things because they all follow that. So I find that as long as Islam is implemented, women are never going to have full rights.*

*You sit down and look at what are the husband's rights in Islam and the wife's rights. If you study that, especially as a convert, we don't even have the culture to go back to, we have to look at the texts. We sit there and read all the texts. These are the husbands rights and it is a long list...*

*He buys you when you get married. You name your price. Myself and a lot of other convert women that I knew would ask for a Koran, for somehow that was the best thing to ask for and you get the most blessing. So he bought me for [the price of] a Koran, and now he owns me and I had to obey everything, everything. If he said 'You are not allowed to leave the house'... I had to stop, and sit there, and not do it.*

*You have to look at what Islam says in the core, because everything comes out of that. No matter how people interpret it... it all comes back to that, it all stems from that. [Most converts are white women who happen to fall in love with a Muslim guy] It usually starts by meeting somebody, not always one guy. Western women who I have met, because most of us come from Christian backgrounds, the appeal of Islam is the amount of similarity and because Christianity is a lot more vague – the appeal of Islam is that everything is very clearly cut out. Every action is detailed, how to please God. You get stuck in that one mindset and you can't think critically any more. After 12 years, and I was in a women's shelter people would say: 'Debbie, you can make a decision for yourself' and I didn't even realise..."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R68UqSmQ7wk>

## Ex-Muslim Atheist Omar

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*“Leaving Islam was a complex and gradual process. It did not happen overnight. It happened over years. I like that saying, ‘The best cure for religion is studying the scripture,’ which is exactly what happened to me.*

*“I was born into a conservative Sunni family in Egypt, brought up to be a devout Muslim, but ironically, I think it was my father who inadvertently made me an atheist. Since an early age he encouraged me to read, and I developed an independent and critical mind, and it was only a matter of time before I got curious about what Islam really is, seeing that it has such a great influence on society and consequently my life. So I started studying the Koran and the Hadith, which is the supposed sayings of Mohammed. When studying the Hadith, there seemed to be many problems with it. First of all, it’s more explicitly violent than the Koran. There seemed to me to be some contradictions between the Hadith and the Koran. There were doubts with regard to the authenticity of a lot of the Hadith, which in turn cast doubt on all of it. There are several verses in the Koran that allude to it being the only scripture, or sufficient as the only scripture.*

*“So, first I decided to totally disregard Hadith, leave the Sunni sect of Islam, and become a Koranist, relying solely on the Koran. I started studying the Koran more thoroughly, but again I was faced with similar findings. There were contradictions between some of the verses of the Koran, but later on I discovered the political reasons behind that. There is a lot of Orwellian doublethink: love and hate the same people, wage war and make peace simultaneously, and other things of the like. The level of violence in the Koran was simply unacceptable to me. I was repulsed by the idea of such an angry, vengeful, hateful god, who in his vanity seemed rather too human.*

*“So I came to the conclusion that Islam is just incompatible with the values of human rights, or with the values of a decent human being, for that matter. The scripture contains a lot of misogyny, sexism, homophobia, anti-Jewish sentiment, well, anti-non-Muslim sentiment in general. If you really believed literally in everything contained in the Islamic scripture, well, enter ISIS.*

*“Then I started to study the early history of Islam and the history of Mohammed. If you evaluate Mohammed objectively, as a historical figure, not as a sacred religious figure, he was a fucking awful person. He was a megalomaniac, a warlord, a thug, committed genocide; he engaged in*

*paedophilia and sexual slavery. This character is no more worthy of reverence than Hitler is. If, for example, 1400 years from now one quarter of the Earth's population started to worship Hitler, would we have to respect Hitler as well? No, fuck that. Fuck Hitler and fuck Mohammed. It's also not just Mohammed. Many of those so-called holy prophets of the Abrahamic religions were nut-jobs and despicable people, like for example, Abraham attempting to murder his son because of a dream, Lot offering his daughters for rape, Moses killing the Egyptian. What sort of person would I be if I believed those were the messengers of God? Or if they were, what kind of monstrous god is that?*

*"And there are of course the absurdities of the so-called miracles, like Mohammed flying to the heavens on a winged donkey, Noah and his ark, Moses splitting the Red Sea. What kind of nonsense is that? I might as well start believing in werewolves and vampires, or ancient Greek gods. And then there is the logical fallacy of God, although omnipotent and could have created human beings in any form, he creates them weak in order to sin, and then although he is omniscient and he knew that this would happen, still gets angry because of those sins that happened because of the way he created them. And although omnibenevolent, he resurrects them to burn in Hell for eternity. This only makes sense if God either is psychotic or just doesn't exist, and I choose to believe in the latter for both my own peace of mind, and because there is absolutely no evidence for the existence of such deity, psychotic or otherwise.*

*"Although I come from the largest Muslim majority country in the Arab world, in my experience most Muslims have not really studied the Koran and Hadith. Most have read most or all of the Koran but have not really subjected it to any critical thinking. They more recite it just like a mantra, really. Some others are in denial; they refuse to see or admit that the god and the prophet, which they have been brought up to revere and romanticise, are in fact horrible. But there is hope. More and more Muslims are sobering up to the reality of this hateful ideology and are rejecting it, and we shall keep sending this message in order to produce more apostates."*

Why I left Islam - Ex-Muslim Atheist Omar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoGlibYB6aU>

## Farhan

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Farhan grew up in an Ahmadiyya community in the U.S. state of Maryland (the Ahmadiyya school of Islam was founded in 19<sup>th</sup> century India). At age 17 he converted to mainstream Salafi Islam and studied Islam deeply. Later, he began to debate Christians when a friend converted to the religion, and was exposed to an alternative perspective, leading him in the end to conclude that *“Islam is not the ultimate reality behind our existence.”*

*“At the beginning of debating I still had faith that Islam was true; I wanted Islam to be true... because I had an emotional attachment to my identity as a Muslim... and once I was able to see that, I still wanted Islam to be true... I tried to seek out more liberal forms of Islam... and everywhere I turned, Sunniism and traditionalism and some of the radical beliefs would still surface... even the Sufis have to acknowledge that there are Hadith that talk about killing people for apostasy — they say that it’s for treason — but they would implement these things in a Sharia society.*

*“One of the most powerful reasons [for leaving Islam] was the explicit tortures that were described in the Koran... that your skin is going to be burned off and replaced with new skin; that you’re going to be hooked with iron rods and dragged back into the boiling water when you try to escape, and that these type of explicit, grotesque tortures would occur for eternity in a very literal sense... the idea of being tortured was what was appalling to me.*

*“Once that hit me, everything else was opened up for me... all of these stories [about Islam] started to make sense from a historical perspective, the conquest of Arabia, the companions of Mohammed couldn’t get along... and these were supposed to be the icons of Islam, and this was supposed to be the best generation of Muslims, and you have all kinds of chaos that become apparent to you... I looked at [Mohammed] within a seventh century context... the possibility of him having endured something like temporal lobe epilepsy... the personhood of Mohammed started to make more sense to me.*

*“It was a liberation for me to leave Islam...”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65O2mAZ8CHQ>

## Fatally Honest

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*“Why I left Islam. It's taken me a long time to get the courage to make this video. And all that means, I'm afraid there will be real consequences in my life after I've published this. Apostate: a person who leaves their religion. In this case Islam. They put themselves at terrible risk. In many parts of the world is extremely dangerous for an individual to leave Islam. The consequence for doing so can result in banishment, extreme violence and even death. The violent execution is often carried out by those closest to the victim. They include but are not limited to: beheading, being thrown from rooftops or even stoning. This is not restricted to Muslim majority countries either. Harassment, violence or even murder occur in Canada, Australia, USA, and Europe. The UK in particular has the highest concentration of acid attacks in the Western world, many of which are carried out against ex-Muslims. [Several examples given in the video.]*

*However I do not want these potential consequences deterring me. Considering my past videos, talking about sex clubs, polyamory, even an interview with a gigolo, you'd think I grew up in an open liberal progressive environment. However that is not the case. I was born into a traditional and conservative Malay Muslim family in Singapore. I was raised to pray five times a day. I did it habitually to seek out a sense of family unity – enjoyed the parental validation that it brought. I took for granted that I was a Muslim by birth and never truly questioned it. Even from the age of 8 it was expected of me to wear the hijab whenever I went outside. However by the time I was 12 I found myself feeling increasingly disconnected from my family. I was not able to have any sort of philosophical discussions that did not eventually lead to Islam. This meant I could never truly open up to them about the fact that I did not particularly believe in the religion. It never occurred to me while growing up that leaving Islam was an option. Even at 18 I wasn't aware that there was such a thing as an ex-Muslim. Was being secular more in tune with who I am? I wanted to know what else life had to offer. I explored this question at 19 by going out without my hijab, attending music festivals and living almost as freely as I wanted. All while keeping up appearances at home in front of my family. In my pursuit of my own path I learned more about Islam and how it did not coincide with my personal ideals. Ultimately I came to the conclusion that my life would be severely restricted if I continued living as a practicing Muslim. I was shocked to discover that I was not alone.”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttl6-l0OmzA>

## Fay Rahman

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Fay grew up as a Muslim. It was not so much the scientific faults in the Koran that made her leave, although these are a problem. It is the immorality of Allah that is the key problem. Why would Allah create people, knowing that they would sin, and then punish them in Hell forever? It is an immoral concept. Fay speaks powerfully against Islam.

*"I am not a super sciency person. I don't trophy science. It was not because of the scientific inconsistencies that do exist in the Koran - that's not the reason why I left. The reason I left, the reason I truly left is because Qadr or predestination is – in Islam it is understood that God knows everything you are going to do, from the day you are born to the day you die. God knows everything but you still have a free choice. So that never made sense to me. It still continues to not make any sense to me. I have watched many lectures on it, had people trying to explain it to me, and I still don't understand it. Because if God knows I for example am going to Hell then why would he make me? What kind of cruel, sick bastard makes something, and knows where they are going to go, how they are going to be, knows every single flaw and facilitates that flaw, and punishes his creation for that flaw. What kind of sick bastard does that?"*

*And, you know, throughout my Muslimness, throughout being a Muslim, we have always been told that God is merciful. A merciful God does not create evil, and Allah did that, according to Islam. Allah created a Jinn called Iblis, knew that he was going to be the end of human innocence, and he still created it. And he damned that creation, and knew it was going to do that, damned to Hell. And for some reason that is Iblis' fault, not the one who made Iblis with that flaw. Knowingly that this was going to happen.*

*And from that, from Qadr breaking down in my mind, not accepting it as a pillar of faith, which it is in Islam, in Sunni Islam Qadr is one of the 6 pillars of faith. You have to believe in it. For me breaking from that, refusing to believe – it broke down into an idea of God that was no longer all-loving and all-forgiving. He is not an all-loving and all-forgiving God. He is a God who wants slaves, but for some reason decided not to create slaves. He decided to create 'free thinking' creatures who chose to be slaves. Who chose to live in their Stockholm Syndrome or burn in the hereafter forever.."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErWcWSt2Gt8>

# Ghada

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Ghada left Saudi Arabia for the USA.

*"I was very unhappy back in Saudi. I was leading a double life. I was lying to my family; I was lying to everybody around me. I didn't like wearing a hijab every day. So I left."*

When she was in high school she decided to be more religious, to read the Koran from start to finish and study it in depth. It was then that she realised the vast distinction between the treatment of disobedient women and disobedient men. She asked her mother about this and was told that when women become disobedient the whole society crumbles.

The hijab represents all the things that were forbidden to her - wearing the comfortable clothes of her choice, riding a bicycle outside, swimming with her brothers. She resents voices on the Left who regard the hijab as a woman's choice – for a Muslima it is not. As a child Ghada was told that if she didn't wear the hijab she would be hung from her hair in Hell.

A misogynistic religion like Islam, where women are taught from an early age that they must cover up and that they are half the value of a man affects a woman's image of herself. Ghada has found love in the West and also a sense of independence, of being herself.

Why I left Islam - Saudi Ex-Muslim Ghada

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qFscPJ5Amg>

## Haaram Bane

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He converted to Islam, and was an outspoken apologist for it, preaching publicly and producing videos. Then doubts crept in, and he awoke to reality. He got on well with the Muslims he met, it was not because of them that he left, but simply because the Hadiths initially, then all of it were unsatisfactory for him.

*“It [leaving Islam] was not something that happened overnight. I really had to wrestle with over time. It was a sensation of waking up. Being able to see things from a perspective where I wasn't looking prior. I wasn't using critical thinking skills necessarily. I was very much taking a narrative sort of given to me. In fact one that is very common. I still see it happen with people who are looking in to Islam for the first time. The analogy might be – you're looking for a new car. It is not as though it is a used car salesman necessarily but if you had to choose a religion, what is the one that has the most attractive package deal? It is very normal to be seeking truth. This is talked about by apologists of all types by apologists here on YouTube. The existential looking for the truth. We are thinking about these big questions in life. And you want to find the... vehicle to get you through life...”*

*You arrive to [Sunni Islam] with a very predetermined package of what is told during classical Dawa... I converted to Islam back in 2006-7... I first learned about Islam when 9/11 was going on...*

*They also don't talk about apostasy. Because that would be counterproductive: Oh by the way, there is a certain interpretation, a certain text that people have consistently interpreted to me as this: if you want to turn in your membership card you can't. Because in authentic traditions the prophet Mohammed said 'Whoever changes his religion, apostates from the religion of Islam, kill him.' They don't really tell you that in the brochure. When you walk into the masjid, they don't. I had embraced this caricature of Islam through a prism...*

*This is what I came down to: if we can't be certain about Hadiths, the biographical material, there is so much skepticism around that topic, then even us getting an orthodox narrative is .. [difficult]... When you go down the path of Hadith criticism, they were codified several hundred years after the fact. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy. It is the ingenious thing: we've invented this thing and because we say it works, it does!”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGhdxQ5ZNO>

## Harris Sultan

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He was born in Lahore, Pakistan to a Muslim household. He has given up on religion entirely and is now an atheist.

*“There came a point in my life when GOD DID IT no longer made sense to me... I set a criterion: Is there any evidence in favour of Allah? Is the morality depicted in Islam, good? Is the science in Islam correct? I started asking questions around these three main ones. I would be dishonest if I said I could do this all by myself. Books like THE GOD DELUSION helped me a lot to understand the other side of the argument. I wouldn't have time to discuss each question in detail... These three questions led me away from Islam...*

*Why is the creator of billions of galaxies so obsessed with what we tiny humans do in our private lives? He gets angry if we sleep with someone of our own gender. He gets angry if we do not have some ceremony before we sleep with someone. If we do not worship him he gets so angry that he will torture his own creation in hell, for eternity. What is so special about worshipping? The creator of billions and billions of galaxies has an ego of a child. If I tell a child that he cannot have that chocolate then he starts screaming and crying until he gets his own way. This is very similar to all the man-made gods: worship me or I will burn you in hell forever.*

*Why does this god who wants us to believe in him so badly shows no evidence of his existence. He can reveal himself right now in front of the White House and so end all wars. He can show up today and say: this is who I am, this is what my name is, and I want you to do this and this. End of story! But he wants to hide himself and then he wants to blame his creation for not believing in him? Muslims and apologists for other faiths say: well our god sent his message thousands of years ago. Which begs another question: why did Abrahamic god sent his messages to this tiny part of the Middle East? What about other people who did not get his message on the other side of the planet? Say Australia or Americas. They did not know about Mohammed or any other Middle Eastern god until they were discovered in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and later. Just imagine all the millions of people who were born and died before that time and in those continents. They are all going to burn in hell simply because they were born in the wrong geographical area... People ask me: why don't you keep your atheistic views to yourself? The answer is simple: I live a free life...”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3khLgwtYw04>

## Hasan

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Hasan became increasingly skeptical of Islam. The more he looked into it the less he felt comfortable with it. The concept of Hell was his point of departure from Islam. MERCY = ETERNAL TORTURE?

*"It wasn't one particular issue or argument that led me to lose my faith, though there were many that had a powerful effect. Nor was it that I discovered anything new about Islam that I didn't already know. It was basically because of a change in perspective. I started to take a much more critical look at Islam. I'm not entirely sure what caused this change, but once it happened, the whole story which Islam presented, and which for so long I had taken for granted, began to look increasingly absurd, and my faith slowly began to fall apart.*

*The whole idea that god's ultimate aim for mankind is that they pick the correct unfounded, dubious, unsupported ancient claim so that he can eternally reward or roast them. Who could easily provide undeniable and irrefutable evidence of his existence and of what religion is true but instead keeps himself hidden and ensures that there is plenty of reasonable doubt. Then makes the punishment for disbelief so obscenely excessive and cruel. A god who does not need worship yet demands worship. Who does not need to create but does so for the benefit of his creation. Even though most of these wretched creatures will not benefit from being created. Who wants us to freely choose to love and worship him yet threatens us if we don't. A parochial god who ignores most of the world in favour of a small area of desert. Who did his best stuff 2000 years ago then took early retirement 1400 years ago. Who sent three crucial books but allowed the first two to be terribly corrupted before deciding he would protect the third one. Which he could have done from the start, avoiding massive schisms and lots of people having to be boiled, roasted, barbecued and other delightful recipes from his cookbook. Who will make his messages so ambiguous misunderstood and easily misinterpreted, that people will forever be arguing and killing each other over it. Who will make the descriptions in his book like Adam and Eve look as if they contradict the scientific evidence. Whose test basically involves killing, starving, maiming and inflicting these poor creatures with disease, disaster and congenital defects, then punishes them if they lose faith in him. ..."*

Why I Left Islam & Goodbye

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ra9QQ58b7JY>

## Jeong Won

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Jeong has left Islam. He respects equality and the rights of people. Such wishes are of course incompatible with Islamic doctrine. He feels free now.

*“People can enter and leave [religion]. If we can't leave then – what can I say? Have you ever seen that I played with the religion in my video? No way. I never played with religion. And so many bad experiences in Korea. Of course I didn't left because of the people. I just left because of the Islam logic and Islamic laws which crime can be justified by becoming a Muslim. I was just too tired of all of this.*

*Anyway, I am just the person who prefers the equality in humanity, and as a person who think all of the persons' right I decided to leave Islam. This [Islam] is not my path...*

*You guys [his critics] make me more stronger.*

*And I could see so many children who is suffering in the family. Some of the parents force [their children] to believe Islam. And if they don't believe then the parents try to attack, try to harm your children. This is not good. I should just wish a world together – can be peaceful. Yes, that's all.”*

*The Reason That I Left Islam*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyNiDo4xe80>

## Kamil

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Kamil was a Muslim, and read the Koran for years. But he felt unable to be peaceful, was often angry, and it affected his marriage. He gave up on Islam and became a Christian.

*“I was a Muslim. Which for years I learned about Koran. I always had that belief that there is only one God. Who will judge us at the end. When we go to him. When we die he will judge us. And that was presented to me in Islam as God is a righteous God. But he is the one who judge the sin. And I was always scared of him because if I do something wrong he will punish me. I was respecting him with all but at the same time I was afraid of him. That is why whenever the sin I've done I knew I've done a lot of sin and all Muslims know what sin is, and its big sins and small sins. It's a big sin I've done so I must do a lot of good things. I was always doing bartering with God, doing a business with God, making some deals with God. I always had in the back of my mind that this God is in heaven and I am on earth. And I have no relation with him. So by reading Koran I will learn a lot about do's and don'ts. But I never had that feeling of not to do the wrong things. I couldn't do it. And I was always feeling miserable. I was having problems with the world and what's happening around me. And I always tried to keep my peace but my inside was always like a fighter. I was worrying about tomorrow. Even though I was making good money. I was educated. I got my masters degree in construction management. I was working in the construction industry. I was making good money. I got married to a beautiful wife. And I had one child at that time. Our life was just full of anger, coming from me. The anger was so much I made my wife to become depressed. So depressed she could not even handle the things in her life so I tried to spend my time outside the house. I did not have that peace...*

*I went to the sanctuary [of the church] and when I heard the sermon it was totally different. Now as a Muslim listening to a sermon about Christ and about living light, and about peace and giving you joy. None of this – my eyes went like this – I had never heard about this. And they said Jesus is your saviour and your God...”*

Why I Left Islam Kamil Part 1 of 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kV5B2Uzmo30>

Why I Left Islam Kamil Part 2 of 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzDCO4w3zCO>

## Kareem

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*“My father is from Iraq originally: my mother is from the west of Ireland. I was born in Ireland. I’ve lived here for most of my life..... I’m not a convert. I renounced Islam at the age of 19 or 20.”*

Kareem was raised as a Muslim in Ireland. He went through a radical phase as a teenager, which gave his parents some concern. His father had left Iraq due to his leftist views, though he still values the Islamic traditions.

Kareem went to university to study genetics. Brought up to believe that only Muslims could be truly good, he was surprised to find that the people he met at university, of all faiths or none, were also good people. The religious elements of his upbringing fell away and he realised that he was no longer a Muslim.

He is involved in a support group in Ireland for former Muslims, which aims to provide support, a sense of community and reassurance that they are not alone. Their other aim is to alert the Irish public to the fact that the aims of Islam are very different from the Irish Republican struggle. The number of apostates is growing but they remain a vulnerable minority.

At present there are about 63,000 Muslims in the Republic. A study by Kings College London has revealed that the country was the biggest per capita producer of ISIS fighters in the whole of Europe. The influence of Islam is concerning. Some primary schools teach the children not to take Jews or Christians as their friends. If they neglect prayers they are warned that Satan will pour boiling water over their heads. The biggest mosque is known to be a front for the Muslim Brotherhood and it has been revealed officially that the London Bridge attack was originally meant for Dublin. The government does nothing to help and instead makes things worse. The newly proposed hate speech law will legitimise the most vicious members of Muslim society.

Nevertheless there is a feeling among many Muslims that young people are leaving Islam. Social media have helped this trend and there is great cause for optimism.

Why He Left Islam? An Irish Ex-Muslim

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXDK7SYN21Y>

## Kosay Betar

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Kosay found that the answers he was getting, about Allah, Satan Jinn, morality, and why are most people destined for Hell were quite unsatisfactory. He did study Islam carefully, and found it to be seriously lacking as a guide for humanity. He goes into detail in his video.

*"The reasons to leave a religion are different from the reasons to become an atheist. For example if a religion had scientific errors. Or illogical things or moral issues. That could be good reasons to leave that religion. But it's not good reasons nor is it enough to not believe that there is a God or Gods. So leaving religion is one thing, and becoming an Atheist is a whole other thing.*

*In this series, I will be only talking about why I left my ex religion, Islam. I will take you step by step on everything I went through which led me to take that decision. Since I was a kid and until the age of 20, the age at which I realized that Islam is a 100% manmade religion.*

*Who is Allah? An unusual question but luckily I was born with a family that wasn't very strict minded which allowed me to ask a lot of questions to which was no answers from people around me. My first question was "Who is Allah?" and "Where did he come from?" And I kept asking those questions until people started telling me that I'm committing blasphemy. And the Prophet Muhammad himself warned us from asking that question. Muhammad said "Once you find yourself asking who created God, know that Satan (The devil) is tricking you". So the first question that I asked as a kid: who is Satan? And how does he have this ability to trick me like that? It's clear (I thought) that I don't know much about this topic. And I need to study this and learn about it more than my own family know and the average people in the street...*

*"Only Muslims will go to heaven and non-Muslims will go to hell regardless of whether they are good or bad people". I couldn't help but feel something was wrong... Why would Allah burn most people in hell and only let a small number be saved!? Even the good ones will also burn if they aren't Muslims... At that time I knew my teacher must be wrong about this."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZMFZvKpjX4>

## Maz A

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Maz grew up as a Muslim in an abusive household. She was demonically attacked. After she became a Christian she found out that her own father had paid someone to assassinate her for leaving Islam.

*"That night I had a dream. I saw my mum's funeral. I saw mum's going to die. And then I saw my dad paying someone to behead me. When I woke up the next morning I thought I was just hallucinating. I get ready to go to work, and just before I get to the office I got a text message – mum passed away. Then two days later the police come to my place and take me to the police station and say to me there's murder allegations. Your father possibly paid someone to behead you. We need to get you right now. So they took me to the police station and they showed me the statement. How my dad planned to kill me and it was exactly matching my dream. So I go home. And that was God teaching me how to forgive. It was so hard, so heartbreaking to know that your own dad would do something like that."*

She has written this message below her video:

*Update: To everyone who's, wondering what is happening with me after all this time. I'm alive and well (thank God) Christ has built me on an his unshakable foundation. His unfailing love kept my fire burning. I needed to take time for myself to grow into spiritual maturity. I thank God for all the trials and tribulations, they have built my character and I've been able to see how far, how wide and long and how deep his Love is for us. The purpose of this video is to testify about Jesus' majestic power and his goodness. To everyone who cursed me and said awful things about me in the comments below, I say to you may the Lord bless you and i really mean it. I don't intend to insult or offend anyone. I wanted to share with the world that Jesus is real and he is not just a story or prophet. He is Lord of Lords & He Is Alive!*

*I'd like to leave one of my favourite verses: Isaiah 49:16 "Can a woman forget her nursing child? Will she have no compassion on the child from her womb? Although mothers may forget, I will not forget you."*

*Look up, Jesus is waiting for you with open arms, just ask him to show you. God Bless you all. My Testimony about Jesus Christ - (Why I Left Islam)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMyaKqtuOTE>

# Mimzy

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Mimzy is an enthusiastic woman who tried hard to be a good Muslim. She grew up in a Muslim bubble. Islam was just her life. She really wanted to be strong in her faith. Simultaneously her dad left Islam. She is unhappy with the immorality of Islam – that the choice for non-Muslims traditionally is to convert, die, or be a dhimmi. She is particularly unhappy about sex slavery:

*“It gets worse as well. I haven't even got to the biggest part that bugs me. And there was another part to it and that was sex slaves. So sex slaves in Islam... was definitely something that kept me up at night. How is this OK? This is not OK. There is nothing anyone could have told me that made it OK. I was disgusted by it. So basically what they are – you go to war... and basically those women would, the Koran describes them as being the possession so it is 'what the right hand possesses' that is one reference to them, but all over the Hadiths and the Koran there's many many references to these sex slaves. So basically men are allowed to have up to four wives and if that gets a bit boring for them they can have unlimited sex slaves as well. I suddenly thought that is so disgusting. Also the men can marry a Christian or a Jew if they so wish but a Muslim woman would only be allowed to marry a Muslim man. Which does not make any sense. I think Muslims like to justify that by 'yes but it is the man of the household'. But then Jews say it is the woman who is the Jew because she is the one that gives birth and brings up the children... You should marry who you want to marry. It is not equality. There is not equality in Islam. And that is something that bugs me.*

*So I delved deeper into learning about these sex slaves. There was no explanation for them. Sheikhs would say: 'oh well it was just those times, if you had a servant she was under your roof – men would sleep with her, whatever. You possessed them.' Whaaat? How does it make any sense? You mean these women are possessions? How is that OK? It is shocking that people think it OK. Or do Muslims just brush it under the carpet? What do Muslims do to make this OK? I really want to know.*

*The Prophet had a few sex slaves, of course!”*

*Why I left Islam*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69QNJDCTGE>

## Mohamad Faridi

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He was raised in a very religious Muslim Shiite family in Iran. He has written a book "[Forsaking My Father's Religion](#)". Becoming a Christian has cost him dearly. He has had to escape from Iran, and find refuge in the USA. Several relatives were killed fighting for the cause of Allah. They were considered heroes, and they believe that this guarantees them a place in paradise.

*"I am Iranian. I was born in the city of Tehran. Into a devout Muslim family. In 1984 when I was born the country of Iran and Iraq was in war. That was 8 long years. Many of Muslims willingly gave their lives up for the cause of jihad, to defend Islam. My uncle told my cousin they joined the war willingly and gave their lives up for the cause of Islam. My mum was a devout Muslim and she mandate us to follow Islam and to fulfill the Sharia of Islam. Even though we speak Farsi in the country of Iran we had to learn Arabic in order to speak to the god of Islam. That is the only language accepted by Allah. I went to a lot of mosques and madrassas to learn how to recite the Koran. And how to memorise the verses, the passages, sometimes chapters of the Koran in order to pray to Allah. They told us: a good Muslim if he recites and memorise the Koran he would not burn in hell. Because your brain, your body will have the eternal word of Allah in it so it would not be burned in hell... When I was praying in Arabic I was 7 or 8 years old but I did not understand what I was saying. So I asked my mum: This god of Islam, does he not speak Farsi? Can I speak to him in Farsi? My mum said: you do not want to be tormented by Allah. You do not want to be tortured by Allah. A good Muslim only surrenders... So from then on I did not ask any more questions – I put my blinder on... I joined the Revolutionary Army of Iran... I re-united my spirit with the spirit of martyrdom... When I left the army I had one dream: that I get the opportunity to fight for Islam and die in jihad. Allah may will that our country fight for Allah against Israel or America that I can join that war...*

*I was desperate... That day [my friend Rasoul] came to me. I felt there was something really different about him – so calm, so peaceful. He told me that he became a Christian... I tried to counter his arguments... After two hours he said: Jesus – he was beaten he was bruised he was crucified... he died for your sin that you have everlasting life. When he told me that, every lie that Islam had told me was exposed in front of my eyes."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckDwCuTFUGg>

## Mohammed Ayad

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A courageous man who has left Islam. He receives abuse for doing so.

*“You are not going to silence me. I know some crazy people may try to kill me. Even if you kill me there will be other thousands of people who are on the internet and many places that will speak. You are confronted now. Islam and Islamic ideology are in confrontation – Islam is not in confrontation with people or with any other religion. Islam is in confrontation with TIME. Islam is from the 7<sup>th</sup> century and it did not evolve. And because of that it is not in a clash with Christianity or Judaism or Buddhism or Hinduism or even atheism. Islam is not for this time and age. Islam is staying in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Why did I leave Islam, Mohamed, Koran, and Hadith? Firstly I left Islam because of the Koran. Many Muslims do not read the Koran as a history book. Or rather they read the Koran before they put a halo on the Koran itself, on Mohammed, on the life of Mohammed, on the disciples of Mohammed, as if they are next to God. Or God himself. When you read something with that admiration to the person, many of the bad things will fly over your head without you noticing. So my suggestion to you, if you really want to learn, why did I leave Islam: if you read the Koran, without putting this halo on the book or Mohammed, or his followers, you will see everything clear. So Mohammed, he told men that they can hit their wives. This is barbarism and yet even if you have some Muslim leaders now they come up on YouTube and they say: 'this is a blessing for the wife. To be beaten by her husband.' And other people come: 'Yes he can beat her but not on the face. On the body you shouldn't break bones.' And everybody is trying to go around to make it sound like: 'yes it is good'. No it's not. It is not good to hit anybody. Hitting, physical punishment, is humiliation, and it belongs to the 7<sup>th</sup> century. And it was still wrong then and is wrong now. It is very wrong. That is one of the things that made me leave Islam. Hitting. Why did Mohammed allow the husband to hit the wife? Because she is half a person. She is deficient in her head [so Mohammed stated] and in her faith. And so the man, he is not deficient?*

*In the Koran, it is the only book that commands people to have women as commodities, slaves. Slave women and you can do whatever you want with them... The Koran is the only book that commands the followers to fight all other religions until they either submit, or pay heavy taxes – the Jizya, or killed.”* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcTbe-7cYC0>

## Mr Sandman

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He became an atheist at around the age of 13. The scientific absurdities in the Koran made him realise that it could not possibly have come from an all-knowing god.

*"I began learning more about topics such as evolution and how the universe began – the scientific view of it was the big bang theory and how it created that, at first. It is hard to explain what caused the big bang because they have theories but just because they are not sure yet does not mean they're wrong or that oh no god did it after all – you can't, it's the god of the gaps, you can't just fill them in everywhere our knowledge is lacking. So I thought – we know in science when the big bang happened the most abundant element in the universe was dispersed, which was hydrogen. And hydrogen gas clouds, huge gas clouds stretched light years apart were created, and they – the gravitational pull that eventually came into play condensed them into a relatively small area compared to the mass, and it became very hot and heated. And that's where we get our stars from, such as the sun. When huge giant stars explode they create other elements, heavier elements as they try to use up as much hydrogen as they can to prolong their life. And when they explode they disperse the elements and that is how we get the periodic table – the elements we have today. Some are man-made. That goes to show you what science has. From single cell organisms how life slowly evolved and after billions of years we came to be on this earth. When primates were formed then primates changed and there are different branches of hominids began like Australopithecus an early hominid species, until we have us today – Homo Sapiens Sapiens.*

*I began learning all of that from 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and I was watching the TV show called The Universe on the History Channel. It enlightened me and showed me a lot of facts. And I also started to see that there are flaws in Islam where as you can cite – as they speak in a way as though the universe is geocentric, meaning everything revolves around the earth. But we all know the solar system revolves around the sun instead. And they [Islam] had no grasp of what is out there. And they also believed in a flat earth and you can see the same in the Bible and the Torah, so these books were created by humans a very long time ago and it shows they did not know what they are talking about. If an all-powerful being inspired them to write these books, it would be factual and you wouldn't find these kind of flaws in it.."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dSSXr6F94g>

# Muhammad Syed

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Muhammad was raised in Pakistan. He was able to get to the USA. He co-founded the organisation: Ex-Muslims of North America.

*“The radicals may not directly care [what non-Muslims think] but – how are people radicalised to begin with? There is a network effect of good ideas traveling. A lot of the funding for radicalisation is coming from Saudi Arabia and Iran, and we need to work to eliminate those sources of funding. Also the ideas that we are presenting, be it Richard Dawkins... any prominent atheists. They travel globally. One of the silver bullets that we have today is the internet. Anything we put out there is globally available to everybody... One person may be exposed to it, and they are traumatised by it. They may think that these people are evil, and they might go to their more religious friend and say: 'help me counter this'. And they may sit down together to try to get a better idea of what they are doing. But usually when they start honestly exploring things you come to the same conclusions: that these are mythological figures and it is untrue. The reason I left the religion is because I spent a year studying the religion because I wanted to be a better Muslim. When I studied it, it was very obvious that this was a mythology from the 7<sup>th</sup> century...”*

*Most of the Muslim countries aren't as oppressive [as North Korea]. Saudi Arabia and Iran are repressive. Most of the other [Muslim] countries aren't rich enough or don't care enough to monitor things to that extent. So for example in Pakistan, they banned\* YouTube because of [“offensive” videos\*] but there are other video sites, other websites. Too much content has been put out there, that they cannot really pull the plug from the internet entirely, and they don't have the resources of China to monitor or block the internet either...”*

*Ex-Muslims of North America: “People who leave Islam tend to be isolated. We try to help people no longer to feel alone. The right ideas resonate...”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbsapNNkJXA>

\* YouTube had been banned for three years in Pakistan after a video named "Innocence of Muslims" went viral on YouTube in 2012. The video had hurt sentiments of Muslims around the world for its negative portrayal of Islam. The video had sparked protests in Pakistan as well, resulting in the ban. However, three years later in January 2016, Pakistan lifted the ban after reaching an agreement with YouTube according to which Pakistani authorities were given the power to block content it deemed offensive.

## Nabeel Qureshi

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Nabeel Qureshi is the author of the book, *Answering Jihad*. He was for years a faithful Muslim who left Islam after examining more closely the teachings of the Koran and the Hadiths, the central texts of the religion. Of particular concern to him were the passages which appeared to advocate violence.

*“Initially when I encountered the violence in Islam I said, ‘This can’t be the true Islam, and for years I would push back arguing that this Hadith here is unreliable. For example, Mohammed says in 2<sup>nd</sup> Muslim [one of the major collections of Hadiths] that he ‘has come to expel the Jews and Christians from the Arabian Peninsula and will not leave any but Muslims.’ That doesn’t sound like the Mohammed I knew so I said that can’t be a reliable tradition. And then another tradition from Salih Bukhari [the other main collection of Hadiths] which says, ‘I have been ordered to fight people until they testify that there is no God but Allah. And only then will their lives and their property be saved from me’... I said, no, this can’t be reliable either. And as you continue you find Mohammed beheading multiple hundreds of men at the same time; you see him distributing those men’s wives and children into slavery; you see him torturing people for money; you see... all these atrocities within Mohammed’s life and not always in defensive battles... After trying to dismiss many of these traditions I said, let me piece together what’s going on here. If I dismiss all of the violent traditions, then I’m basically dismissing the foundations of Islam. This is where I get my picture of Mohammed from. So looking just at the sources... how do I reconstruct what Mohammed’s life was like? And what you find when you do that... in the first thirteen years of Mohammed’s prophetic career he lives a peaceful life... But then he’s given rule over a city, an entire city, [which] gives him the right to be arbiter. From that moment until his death, approximately nine to ten years, he personally participates in or deputises 86 battles... and they culminate in intensity until the moment he dies.*

*“Chapter 9 of the Koran is the last major chapter of the Koran to have been composed, and it is the most expansively violent. This is the one that starts off by saying ‘This is a disavowal of all the treaties we have with polytheists... Verse 5: Slay the infidels wherever you find them, lay siege to them and take them captive... Verse 29: Fight the Jews and Christians until they pay you the poll tax [Jizya] and they feel subdued... Verse 33: Islam has been made to prevail over every religion.’*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2htOWOF4gqs>

## Naeem Fazal

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Naeem Fazal was a dedicated follower of Islam until his conversion to Christianity following a remarkable experience he had at his home. Growing up in the Middle East, he nevertheless was able to speak with Hindus, Sikhs and Christians about their religions but never considered giving up his own, accepting that it was the only way to seek a relationship with God. But then his brother introduced him to a Christian group meeting where he watched a film about the Rapture, and soon after that he had his spiritual experience.

*"I was in my room, and it was about eleven, twelve o'clock at night... all of a sudden I noticed the room was getting dark, not physically dark but just weird and evil... [S]omething dragged me from my shoulders and pinned me to my pillow... Finally the door opens up and... in walks this figure which later on I found out was a demon, and as it walks to my bed it sort of communicates to me that it's going to kill me... I'm thinking Allah is the God of Islam, can he help, and I just knew for some reason that this was beyond him. So I thought, 'Jesus, can he help?'... As I'm thinking these thoughts, this figure is coming towards my bed, it reaches my bed and then disappears.*

Naeem runs to his brother to tell him of his experience. His brother says that only Jesus has authority over demons and angels, and they pray together. Naeem then returns to his room and begins reading the Gospel of John.

*"I'm reading John but all of a sudden... I find myself sitting on my bed with my eyes wide open, staring into one corner of the room where it was just lit up with this glow... I believe it was the presence of Christ introducing Himself to me... there was utter peace... just an amazing amount of peace.*

*"My views on God have radically changed. In the past, God was a far off God in Islam and not really relational... now it's very different. Before, I thought that you had to do a certain amount of things to get closer to God. Now... I cannot get any closer to God. Now my intimacy with God can grow, and my love for Him can grow, but as far as He's concerned, He's as close to me as He's going to get.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oa4MCDfjpyc>

## Nissar Hussain

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Nissar Hussain was born in 1965 and brought up in Birmingham to Muslim immigrant parents. He moved with his wife and children to Bradford. His problems began when he and his wife converted to Christianity. That led to years of persecution, daily intimidation and ostracism of his family, including his children, by members of the Muslim community. They were stopped many times by angry mobs. A local Muslim shopkeeper made it clear that if they were back in the Middle East or Pakistan he would have no hesitation in cutting off his head. On one occasion about 50 thugs collected outside his house. They were recorded on CCTV but no action was taken. The local police sergeant promised to send squad cars but they never turned up. Their cars were involved in ramming incidents. He was shunned by his Muslim 'friends'. Their families disowned them. When Nissar's father died no-one thought to tell him or invite him to the funeral. For years the Hussains were in effect prisoners in their own home.

As he says, the police never acknowledged any of this as a religious hate crime until in 2015 Nissar was attacked on his own doorstep by a group of thugs with pickaxe handles. Luckily some Polish neighbours intervened and probably saved his life. He was badly injured and still suffers from PTSD so cannot return to his profession as a nurse. He and his family had no choice but to leave their Bradford home, under armed police escort. The police and the authorities are reluctant to take any meaningful action. They are in denial and seem determined to appease the Muslim community. Nissar turned to the Christian Church, who were useless. The charity Christian Concern turned their back. Three bishops refused flatly to help him; one stated that he would not welcome converts to the Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, at the time of the interview in Sudan campaigning for religious freedoms, publicly turned his back on him at a conference in 2014.

He describes the local MP Naz Shah as a disgrace. He reached out to her at least three times. On each occasion she failed to keep the appointments. His last attempt was not even acknowledged and he has heard nothing from her since. Her office manager is said to be closely related to the family which played a major part in the intimidation. Sarah Champion, another local MP, at least admitted that it was a Pakistani problem. She was forced to resign from the Shadow Cabinet. Nissar believes that there are many thousands of like-minded Muslims who are too afraid to reveal themselves. His plan is to set up a charity offering support for ex-Muslims.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68zD7TUSGx0>

She was born in England but grew up in the Middle East. She was married to a Pakistani Muslim, in the UAE. The marriage fell apart in a year. Getting the divorce was difficult. She was able to get out of the UAE and came to England. She then seriously looked into whether her bad experiences were in accordance with Islamic doctrines.

*"I got back [to the UK] and obviously my mind is ticking and thinking is this actually Islam? Is Islam justifying this, allowing this to happen? Or is a cultural perversion of Islam? So then I just went slap bang into research and I was like – which aspects of the Koran are they using to make such laws [relating to her divorce] and is it even warranted in the Koran or is this them taking things 'out of context'? You know the most famous line given.*

*So obviously the more you research the worse it gets. It is almost like as you go down the rabbit hole there's a lot of things. For me the most important thing was the status and treatment of women. Directly in the Koran which is written – I mean, it is point blank in front of you. So when I saw that and read that in English and I still was coming from a place at this point where I'm trying to defend what happened to me. So if someone was to ask me: 'oh yes that is what Islam does' I as a Muslim could have said: 'no no that's not what my religion allows you to do. That's a corruption of it.' So I actually started doing research from a place of wanting to defend just my position – if I was to carry on with my life and justify what had happened. So when I read these verses in English I still had that thought – that obviously the Koran came down from Arabic and you could never get the true nature of the meaning until you know the Arabic version. And with the Internet at our fingertips I went to some YouTube channels where people like Masked Arab, Sherif Gaber who is still in a precarious situation based on his last Twitter post. But these people were telling me when I am reading the word 'to beat' [a wife] that the apologists were telling me: 'oh it is like with a toothbrush'... And I was doing some outside reading as well and I came across this line which said: 'If something has violence in it, there is no way there can be divinity in it.' And that really resonated with me because as I read and researched more and more about the Koran: it is not just the status and treatment of women, it is also Mohammed's life... there's at least 90 military campaigns where he led or commanded... It is a political ideology where women are the spoils of his wars... Arab imperialism with an expansionist agenda..."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-vzAgYqcQ4>

## Pastor Joshua John

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Surprising as it may seem, Joshua found Jesus within the pages of the Koran. Reading the Koran in a language that he understood led to him leaving Islam. He read things that the teachers had not told him.

*"I was revising the Koran some time before Ramadan and I asked my teacher that I wanted to read the Koran with translation after the Namaz Taraavi. When I asked him this my teacher told me not to read Koran with translation. I questioned him why I should not read Koran with translation? He said you will be lost if you read it with translation. When I heard this immediately a very strange question came to my mind. A verse of the Koran came to my mind: 'Taffaka-Hu-Fid Din' which means to gain knowledge in the faith. I asked my teacher, do you know what you are saying? He said yes I know what I'm saying, but it is better if you don't read it with translation. I asked why I should not study it with translation when the prophet of Allah himself said 'Taffaka-Hu-Fid Din'. And also it said you had to gain knowledge even if you have to go to China... He at last said what he didn't want to say. He said you will be lost if you read it with translation. When he said this something started in my mind. It was like a storm's beginning that why is it so?..."*

*Fellows, I began reading Koran with translations to find out what is there that makes people apostate and lose their way from Islam? When I began reading Koran with order I came to now that in Surah Bakra it was visibly written that they are blind, dumb and deaf who see and yet do not see. I was shocked that who are these people referred to in the Koran? When I read ahead to Surah Al-Imran verse 55 it is visibly written there that Fear God and obey my commandment, which is the correct way. And who was saying that? It was Jesus Christ. That you fear the Lord and obey my commandment, that is the only true way. I was puzzled and I asked Allah what is that I just read? We were always told that Allah and the prophet's way is the true one but Koran is saying that only Jesus Christ's way is the true way. And then when I read ahead in verse 55 it is written that I will give victory to your followers over the infidels till the world ends. When I read this believe me fellows, my life shook. It was like a storm. I was outraged and I asked myself: 'Hey you Hafiz, Nadeem! Where have you spent your life?' It is the Koran saying that those who don't believe in Jesus Christ are the infidels!.. I surrendered myself to that Holy personality whose name is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, my Lord God."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOI8FzAjoyo>

## Paul

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Paul (not his original name) grew up a Muslim living in an Islamic country. At an early age he began to ask questions about Islam, such as why Allah only hears your prayers if you are facing Mecca, but his father would say, “Don’t ask questions - this is Islam.” Later, Paul moved to Chicago where he met a former Muslim named Mohammed Gazoli, who had become a Christian.

*“He gave me a book he’d written about his testimony. It changed my life... The entire book was a list of references from the Koran and ancient Muslim historical books which exposed many shocking things about Islam... One example from his book was the claim that the Prophet Mohammed married a six years old girl when he was over fifty years old, and that he consummated that marriage when she was nine. This was impossible for me to accept!*

*“...There were many claims I could not believe, but Gazoli was wise. He included quotes from many ancient Muslim’s books as support and gave references so anyone could go check for themselves. But I didn’t have all these books... so I used Google, and the very first search... confirmed all the contradictions about Islam. But I was very sceptical. I thought it could be all a conspiracy by Americans and Jews to deceive Muslims.*

*“I was thinking, I’m going to keep investigating this, so I can prove [Gazoli] wrong. So... I went to a large Muslim bookstore in Chicago ... I only bought copies that were printed in Saudi Arabia because I was thinking American publishers could have added errors to trick Muslims. At home, I checked each reference one by one, and they all matched. I could not believe it. It was impossible! Islam was full of lies, and this caused a lot of stress for me... [A]t one point, I bowed down on the floor and I said, ‘Creator of Heaven and Earth,.. please reveal to me who You really are...’ After months of struggling and praying and studying... I finally came to the conclusion that Islam is a Mohammed-made religion [and] I... put my faith in Christ as my Saviour and Lord.”*

Ex-Muslim: Why I left Islam and became a Christian? Amazing Testimony

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrg9J9\\_5IUA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrg9J9_5IUA)

## Ramin Parsa

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Ramin was born and raised in Iran. He tried hard to be a good Muslim, praying, fasting, and beating himself. However, doubts arose. He studied the Islamic scriptures, he could not believe that God could be so cruel and so he turned his back on Islam.

*"I was born and raised in Iran, Shiite Muslim, and then I was told to do good things, and also Islamic ritual they are to do. Good things based upon what Islam considers to be good. And I used to pray five times per day. Fasting a month, going to the Mosque. And we are Shi'ites, I used to beat myself, beat my chest, beat my back, and put mud on my head. You know, if you read the story of Elijah, where the worshipers of Baal used to wound themselves, kind of same thing.*

*We used to do these things in order to earn points to go to heaven. We were doing those things trying to please Allah that he may have pity on us and allow us into Heaven. And we never knew how much is enough. How much torture, how much self-deprecation, how much religious rituals. Until I was so disappointed with Islam, something happened to me, an experience: I was arrested by Islamic police in Iran. And I was tortured, and that was a turning point in my life. I began to question in that, is this really from God? The things that I was doing. Before that I was doing it because I was trying to earn points, to be a good Muslim to go to Heaven. But then I began to really study and to research and consciously, to see what really Islam teaches. And I saw so much darkness in Islam, so much hatred. Islam commands to kill the Jews and Christians and those who don't believe in Allah. All infidels, to behead them, to kill them, anybody who does not believe in Allah to be killed. So when I saw those things I could not believe God is like that. I knew there is a God but I couldn't believe that Islam is from God. So, I was so disappointed with Islam, I was so broken, all my faith was evaporated. But at the same time I knew that there was a God, and at that moment I was crying out to God..."*

*began to Leaving Islam | Ramin Parsa*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7UD9f5vbaY>

## Sadia Hameed

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Sadia left Islam. She is not now using the label “ex-Muslim”.

*“I don't really use the [ex-Muslim] term. When I was working in the sector I used it for about a year, and I realised I didn't like the term. It fractures the wider movement... Where Islam has been fetishised by the left, the Muslim victim is fetishised by the left, the ex-Muslim victim has been fetishised by the atheist community. In terms of the oppression Olympics that goes on in the modern world. What you find in the atheist sphere the ex-Muslims come at the top of the food chain, in the wiser society, in the left sphere, the Muslims come at the top of the food chain...”*

*There was a kind of breakdown within me when I left faith because what growing up in a faith does for you is it puts these kind of blocks around you . It is essentially like growing up with a wall growing around you. It keeps you upright so when you fall you can fall back on God or this circle or that prayer. So, losing that is quite frightening. Learning to think for yourself is something that Islamically you are not taught. Are you? Like, God did it or it happened because this incident or that belief, or whatever. Learning to think for yourself is really hard, and that self-doubt does make you feel stupid again. Because every time you ask a question, and don't just believe because God did it, or don't just believe because it's in this book, you start equating asking questions or learning new knowledge to being stupid. And that's really hard to shift, even today. I constantly feel like that. That's a personal challenge. I think what's needed in that kind of atheist sphere, for people who grew up in communities like ours potentially, and not just the Muslim community. Strict religious communities who were very insular, that didn't let you explore yourself, you do need therapy. To learn to think for yourself. To learn about questioning. To learn to live without crutches. If that is your choice you've decided to make, you need some kind of therapy and support from that. Because it's quite nerve-wracking, especially if you've left a community or been forced out of a community which is often a consequence of leaving faith in a Muslim context...*

*I had to fight really hard for my own voice... I wasn't allowed to laugh... I had to fight really hard just to be able to talk, just to be able to laugh, just to be able to be alive the way I am. Now it's impossible to shut me up! And the other thing – I had to learn how to learn. That is not something that is taught to us... Not to learn for ourselves, no intellectual inquiry...”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1CRoQh-pkY>

## Sam

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Sam was brought up as a Christian. He decided to convert to Islam. He felt welcomed by the Muslim community. However, he started to have doubts, initially regarding the validity of the Hadith. He largely ignored the Hadith therefore, as he regarded them as hearsay, “Chinese whispers”. In the end he felt the validity of the Koran was questionable too. Without the Koran, he could not be a Muslim any more. He could see that the behaviour of Mohammed was immoral. He was far from being “the perfect man”.

*“The very first thing [that caused me to doubt] was that famous debate between Mohammed Hijab and David Wood... And then there were questions about the preservation of the Koran cropping up. And that started to affect me as well... At the end of the day with Islam the Koran is such an important tenet, if that collapses, it's like the house of cards, the whole thing collapses. And for me personally, the Koran makes the claim that it is the unchanged word of God. That is a very very strong claim to make. The point is, when that house of cards comes down, the rest of it comes down. Because the ex-Muslim brothers that know me will know that I was never too keen on the Hadiths anyway, but the Koran always was very important to me. And when that started to go for me, that is it!*

*[problem with the Hadiths:] Reliability. That was the main thing. It felt for me that it was just a massive game of Chinese whispers. Literally. That is what it came across as. I don't care how much this person is reliable, etc. you are just reporting what other people have said... To clarify, I was Sunni and there are Hadiths in there about how to pray, how to fast etc, so I am not saying I denied them, but they were a shaky ground for me always. So I reached the stage where I decided not to engage with them and I engaged with the Koran more...*

*There are lots of things that Mohammed has done that are not a perfect example. If I am truly going to follow someone, then they would have to be a genuine perfect example. And Jesus was exactly that...”*

*Why I left Islam | ExMuslim Testimony | Speakers Corner*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZ3t4qKIhI0>

**\*\*\*FULL DEBATE!\*\*\*** Mohammed Hijab vs. David Wood | Tawheed vs. Trinity <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3k6MBedWTww>

# Sarah Haider

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## Sarah Haider: Islam and the Necessity of Liberal Critique

Sarah Haider is the co-founder of Ex-Muslims of North America, an organisation for non-theist ex-Muslims. She is disturbed by the hostility which this organisation has attracted, in particular from the political Left. Here are some extracts from a speech she gave to the American Humanist Association's 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in May, 2015.

*"My experience over the last two years has made me wary of speaking up, even to an audience such as this. I always expected feeling unwelcome from Muslim audiences, but I didn't anticipate an equal amount of hostility from my allies on the Left... Atheists and secularists can feel secure in the knowledge that their allies on the liberal Left will stand with them when the target is the far right Christians... but when the same scrutiny is applied to Islam, you find that inexplicably some people on the Left begin instead to align with the Islamic religious Right.*

Haider later speculates as to why this should be and comes to some revealing conclusions.

*"Why is it so difficult for many on the Left to criticise Islam? Why do they shy away from it? I believe that the primary reason is that many are simply incapable of separating the criticism of an idea [from] the hate directed towards the people, and immediately call the first 'racism'. That idea should not be entertained for very long, as if there were no valid reasons to critique an ideology rooted in 7<sup>th</sup> century patriarchal norms except for hatred towards the very people imprisoned by those ideologies.*

*"When I read articles of why Muslims shouldn't be ridiculed I get a sense of condescension, a sense that [there are] those who believe that the most central trait of brown people is their religion, a defining feature in fact, and due to this they believe either that we won't reform or we can't... Sometimes it feels as if people view secularism and free-thinking to be concepts only of the West, something inherently Western... [But] It is no more than an ignorance of history to feel that Enlightenment ideals can only be shared by this civilisation rather than a progression of all humanity. Indeed,.. [t]here have been free-thinkers in every culture in the world that have bled for these ideals."*

[Sarah Haider remains optimistic that Islam can similarly be reformed.](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pIC24YuoJk>

## Sara

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Sara is a 19 year old ex-Muslim and a student.

Her parents couldn't understand. Islam is the world's fastest growing religion – why leave it, they said. She must just be weird.

*“The first time I think my parents had proof that I was not a Muslim was when they found out I had a boyfriend. They said that they were going to pull me out of college. All these kinds of threats – saying –‘Oh, you know we could make you disappear for two years’... and no-one would say anything.... No-one would know. And suddenly you’re just put in a situation where you’re going to have to do this for the rest of your life – you’re going to have to pretend for the rest of your life.... I just didn’t think I could do it. I very seriously considered suicide.”*

*“...I was absolutely terrified... My parents had suggested that they were going to marry me off. When your parents say something like that you believe them. “*

She ran away twice. After that her parents kicked her out.

*“Most people I know haven’t actually told their family, so most people are in the closet.”*

*“Most ex-Muslims don’t want to be ex-Muslims. We want to believe. The easiest thing for us and our families would be just to believe.. And if it were that easy we probably would have done it.”*

I'm an ex-Muslim | BBC Newsbeat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2lYgsX4kkc>

## Sohayla Courtin

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She grew up in a Muslim family in Iran during a war. They had to keep sheltering from bombs. Her family fled and were able to find safety in Canada. Growing up, she felt more Westernised. A school friend introduced her to Christianity, and that was the turning point in her life.

*"I felt like a black sheep growing up [in Canada]. I felt like I didn't belong within my own family, and it wasn't because I didn't feel loved or I wasn't loved but I was different. I always tell people I was more Canadianised. My sister and brother wanted to hold on to our traditional roots. To be Persian to practice our faith. All my friends went to Persian school, I never did... I liked my new life, my old was gone. I did not have to worry about the war and being afraid to play in a park, and so I struggled with: how come everyone wants me to be this way, but I don't feel that I belong. I don't feel that I belong in my family. I feel like I was meant to be somewhere different or have a different life. None of it was bringing me any satisfaction. None of it was bringing me wholeness, because I was really empty inside..."*

*[Scott talking about Jesus] We were 15 in High School. I remember the first time I saw him there was so much light exuding from him and I just thought: who is this kid, I've got to get to know him.. I was drawn to this light... I got really excited until my Muslim friends found out. And they just put the lid on it. They shut it down. They assured me how awful it was for any Muslim to convert – that there is no hope for you, that you are not allowed. It is a huge sin against god... If you convert you are going to burn in hell."*

She did indeed convert, with the help of Scott.

It did hurt her parents, and the relationship with her family became strained. She would not have dinner with them.

She is now married to Scott, and they have a family together.

*Ex-Muslim: Why I chose Christianity and what Jesus told me*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euCPBhXCDAw>

## The Masked Arab

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He rips into Islamic scriptures in a humorous way. Here is a video that shows the Koran to be full of scientific errors. Here is the well-known absurdity in the Koran about the sun setting in a muddy spring. Of course modern science knows that the sun is about a million times larger than the sun. He demonstrates that for at least the first 4 centuries, Islamic scholar believed that the sun set into a muddy spring. They believed it literally, as is clearly demonstrated. Based upon authentic Islamic scripture:

*“So now let me summarize this lengthy video. There are basically two arguments here. The Muslim argument says: The sun appeared to set in a muddy spring from Dhul-Qurnayn's perspective. And the second argument says: The Quran is flawed and there is a scientific error written by human, not a god. Let's put these arguments side by side. The Quran says it's clear, its verses are explained in detail etc. It could have worded this much better like the example of Jesus's fake crucifixion in chapter 4, verse 157. The word wajada is used twice in the verse. It makes no sense for it to have two different meanings. The context tells us he took a road and we saw he reached the place of sun set and not the time. The largest spring in the world is far too small to stretch all the way to the horizon and give a false impression of a sun setting into a spring. The hadith of Muhammad telling us it sets in a muddy spring is classified authentic. The history of Tabari clearly indicates the prophet's cousin Abdullah Ibn Abbas believed it literally set in a muddy spring. And Tabari gave us an insight into the 180 springs in the east and west based off his understanding of the Quranic verses.*

*All the earliest tafsirs, the first 19 were clueless. It took 440 years after the death of Muhammad for Muslims to start denying that the sun actually set into the spring. The story of Dhul-Qurnayn finding the sun setting in to a spring was an old legend believed in Arabia at the time as proven by Tubba's pre-Islamic poem. When looking at all the evidence I've presented here, please keep Occam's razor in mind.*

*The more silly justification and excuses you need, the less likely that scenario is true. I hope you enjoy this video and I apologize for making it so long, but I needed to be thorough. I get lots and lots of messages from Muslims who have doubts and tell me my videos are helping them see through religion.”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVwizsojd1Y>

## Uhreej

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She found that Islam was not compatible with the happy and fulfilled life that she wanted. It caused difficulties with her relatives.

*"I grew up in a very strict religious household. My parents are both Muslims so they raised me and my younger sisters as Muslim... I started to think a different way at the end of High School, I stopped praying... I did not relate to it any more. All this came to a climax when I met my partner Gareth at university. And according to the religion of Islam you cannot have a relationship with the opposite sex before marriage, and as well, you can't be in a relationship with someone who isn't Muslim. I was doing both. So this was like a first time I was really breaking the rules and it really did cause a lot of conflict within me. Because on one hand I wanted to be religious because I didn't want to hurt anyone, anything bad to happen to me. On the other hand I didn't understand why there's God had put me in the situation I was experiencing the best thing in my life, and I could tell from the bottom of my heart that I was meant to be with this person, and this person was only going to bring me good. And on the other hand it was like, no but there are these rules you have to follow. Sorry. I know it is bringing you happiness and joy but you have to follow it.*

*At this point there was a fork in the road for me: religion on one side, and Gareth on the other. And I chose Gareth, because that is what I felt to be the best path for me. So I completely shoved religion. I threw it away. I don't need this negativity, I don't need restrictive force in my life. I don't want anything to do with it..."*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAIRnlh3z\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAIRnlh3z_Q)

## Word of Life

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He left Islam and became a Christian. In this video he explains his reasons for leaving Islam.

*“Just a disclaimer: this is not an attack on Islam or Muslims, in case anyone gets offended. It is a confession of my own experience.*

*I became a Muslim when I was 17 years old. That was after a few years of astrology, palmistry Tarot, and all that...*

*With the five daily Islamic prayers, the prayer ritual, which is offered five times a day... How that worked: you prayed these ritual prayers, in Arabic, only in Arabic, in the hope that Allah would accept your prayers. Because in Islam Allah did not always accept prayers. Your prayers could be valid but Allah would have to accept the prayer offered up to him. And I always found that kind of strange to be honest. I always wondered why trying to make a connection with God would have to be accepted and valid as a ritual offering. And this was one of the first seeds of doubt that came into my mind. Not to mention a lot of actions of Mohammed. Notably not just the marriage to Aisha because at the time marrying a child by an older man was normal. There are some practices in Ahadith and Sunnah of Mohammed's that are so immoral to me, so cruel to me that I had to basically ignore them.*

*Another thing that Mohammed was recorded to have said was if a Muslim changes his religion: kill him. If any other religion loses a member, it's likely the people will pray for them, may be disappointed, a few extremists may disown them. But in Islam it is taught explicitly to kill anybody who leaves Islam. Anyone, any Muslim who loses his faith should be murdered for that.*

*The fact that Mohammed would equate women to dogs, donkeys by saying they were invalidating a man's prayer by walking in front of him... And that women were deficient in intelligence, deficient in religion because they menstruated and that they were going to make up the majority of hellfire.*

*There are also notes of Fascism within Islam because also in the Ahadith and Sunnah Mohammed was recorded to have said that if someone refuses to come to the mosque for prayer when they could hear the call to prayer, the adhan, then their house must be burned down. Which is complete Fascism. Complete control. And I just had the notion that Islam is not an inherently loving religion. And Allah is not inherently a loving God.”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjiHT8ZDtYg>

## Yasmine Mohammed

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Yasmine had a very strict upbringing, in Canada. She would make friends with non-Muslims at school, much to the anger of her mother. She tried to escape from the violence meted out by her “uncle”. She tried to escape with the help of a sympathetic teacher, but was thwarted by a judge who suffered from the racism of low expectations. Eventually, via a forced marriage to a terrorist, she was able to escape from Islam. Her website: Free Hearts, Free Minds <https://www.freeheartsfreeminds.com/>

*There were a lot of parts in the Koran that I did not even know about. Some of the scientific things that are very not scientific at all. Those were just kept from me because even as a child I was not believing them. Or even things like the Hadith where the prophet said you should drink camel urine because it would cure all the illness. I didn't know about that when I was a Muslim. It wasn't until afterwards when I started looking into it I found all these things where I thought: 'Oh my gosh, I cannot believe that all this was in here.' And I think that is probably the case for most Muslims. Muslims just believe what their parents tell them. And don't necessarily look at the book themselves. I think that if they did, a lot of them would probably run.*

*It is a very difficult transition [from Islam]. It is really very scary. It is like a tight wire and hell is underneath you. So you have to follow this very straight very narrow path that consumes every single aspect of your life. When you are born and raised in that and then you say: 'I don't want to walk on this path any more' it is debilitatingly so scary because you don't know what to do. It felt like I was in the middle of a vast ocean. I didn't know what to do or where to go. And that is because I was always being told what to do and where to go. And now I had the opportunity to figure that out for myself. And so at the beginning it was really scary, but once you get into it, once you realise: 'I can do what makes me happy'. I can do what I want. And then you start to really build yourself up, brick by brick. If you know Majid Nawwaz who is a Muslim reformer who wrote a great book called 'Radical' where he talks about his life. He talks about having to do that, and he's a Muslim, not an ex-Muslim and he has gone through that same process of saying: 'I am not this person any more' because he used to be an extremist. He used to be in prison in Egypt. I am not this person any more, so who am I? Then you have to go through this excruciatingly slow process of step by step process of building the new you. It's fun though! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAqEvAC4\\_-E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAqEvAC4_-E)*

## Zafar Heretic

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Zafar found himself questioning the scientific validity of Islam. He searched for an Islamic scholar who could reconcile Islam with modern science, but of course could not find one.

*"All the scholars used to seem like uneducated to me. And I was waiting for a person who can put science and Islam together. I could have left Islam that time. But then I watched a show of Dr Zakir Naik. He was medical doctor. I was a little happy that I found at least one person who can put scientific version of Islam in front of world. I took the manipulated science of Zakir Naik seriously and came back to Islam again. Peaceful Islam. But this lie could not remain for long. Once my non-Muslim friend asked me: "Did your messenger really married to a child of age 6?" I replied no brother, these are just fake stories to spread hate. He did not reply but I had a thought this time. That I should really look into Islam now so if anyone make any such claim so I can answer the reality. First of all I picked up the Quran and studied it with meaning. I thought for a moment that the translation could be wrong. But when I studied the explanations related to Quran I was shocked. I read other explanations like story of Aisha. Studied about sex slaves in Islam. 72 Hoori, Triple divorce system concept of Halala. I used to think that these things could have been said by any scholar and would have been misinterpreted by people. But all these were the part of Quran. Science was completely destroyed I was very depressed. What is this?? Is it Islam I was following? Then I watched the justifications of famous scholars on these topics. I was not satisfied. As much of justifications I was watching that much of hate I was feeling towards ideology..."*

*Now the things that were inside started popping up like why there are so much religions and why everyone think that their religion is true. I studied the cosmology that I hardly studied in school time. Studied Physics, Chemistry, Biology after studying these all my god was left behind. I noticed that science was being introduced everywhere the crap ayats of Quran were being manipulated to fit them in different branches of science. I listened the Ex-Muslims and verified the references they were giving. They were speaking the truth."*

Zafar Heretic : Why I left Islam

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YELgXsHKguQ>

## Zara Kay

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Zara left Islam as she could not accept the ill treatment of women and gays. She moved to Australia and received an Australian passport. She is currently in difficulties in Tanzania. See her website for details: <https://www.faithlesshijabi.org/justiceforzarakay/>

*“For a long time I questioned the existence of God. When I was 10 and 11 I asked my parents: 'Who created God?'... In the end I realised nobody really had the answers to it so I brushed it off. As I grew older I started questioning the Hijab. I questioned why women had to wear the Hijab and couldn't take it off... A lot of time I read about why women had to wear the Hijab it had a lot to do with men not being able to control themselves. But then, why were women subjugated to wear it? Why was the Hijab invented? That then brought out the story of sex slavery. I didn't even know about slavery at the time. There were so many of the bad parts of Islam that I wasn't taught. All I knew was about the wars where Muslims were oppressed and had to fight for their rights. But nobody told me who actually started the wars. Nobody told me that Islam was spread through wars. And that Mohammed had given people conditions that they either accepting Islam, paying a tax, or getting killed. And that's how most of the wars ended. And then the part of taking women as slaves from wars and differentiating slave women from free women by use of the Hijab was very suffocating for me, knowing that I'm wearing something that other women were not allowed to wear because they were taken as slaves. Basically it was a form of patriarchy and oppression. And that is how I see the Hijab.*

*That pushed me to question more about Mohammed's life. I read up extensively on his wives. I knew he had a wife called Aisha who I really did not like because she went in a war against Ali who was the grandson of the prophet. Little did I know that Aisha was 6 years old when she was married to the prophet and that the marriage was consummated when she was 9. And to me, that is not consent. No 9 year old would ever consent to marriage..*

*Islam is also against gay people. I had never met a lot of gay people. I did not know homosexuality existed until I left Tanzania and grew out of my bubble and met gay people. I could never stand that these are people who are cursed in religion and non-believers are sent to hell. I put up a post about accepting gay people, but all I received was a backlash from Muslims...”* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8wnB\\_24tyw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8wnB_24tyw)

# Zayn Malik

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Zain Javadd Malik, known as Zayn, is an English singer and songwriter. Born and raised in Bradford, Malik auditioned as a solo contestant for the British music competition The X Factor in 2010.

See the interview in Vogue magazine: *Zayn: The Vogue Interview*

BY GILES HATTERSLEY

13 NOVEMBER 2018

<https://www.vogue.co.uk/article/zayn-malik-on-one-direction-and-gigi-hadid>

Quote:

*Zayn is routinely touted as Britain's most famous Muslim. Does he count himself as especially religious? "To be honest, I've never spoken publicly about what my religious beliefs are. I'm not professed to be a Muslim." Would he call himself a Muslim now? "No, I wouldn't," he says thoughtfully. "I believe whatever people's religious beliefs are is between them and whoever or whatever they're practising. For me, I have a spiritual belief of there is a god. Do I believe there's a hell? No."*

*He worries that even discussing faith "becomes a religious fucking debacle of philosophers. I just want to keep it between me and whatever I believe. I feel like that makes me move through life in a nice way. If I behave well, I will get treated well. That's it. I don't believe you need to eat a certain meat that's been prayed over a certain way, I don't believe you need to read a prayer in a certain language five times a day. I don't believe any of it. I just believe if you're a good person everything is going to go right for you."*

Was it easy to drop his religion, with his family? "Really easy for me," he says, nodding. "With my mum and dad, they were always there to educate us – I did go to mosque, I did study Islam – but they gave us the option so you could choose for yourself."

But he's glad of his childhood years at the mosque. "There's definitely beautiful parts to every religion," he says, pleased to have built his life around the tenets of Islam.

## Huge Numbers Leaving Islam in Iran

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXDPOzQOdgw>

Harris Sultan: *"I hail from Pakistan which is a majority Muslim country. I hope to live to see a day when the majority of Pakistanis have left Islam. It's not really as far-fetched as you might think. There's a staggering study that came out of Iran. They're doing much better than Pakistan. Actually we don't know if they are doing much better than Pakistan because in Pakistan there hasn't been a survey lately. Look at this: 'According to a new survey 4 decades after the establishment of the Islamic regime, only 32% of the population consider themselves Shia Muslims.' Iran, guys, is supposed to be a Shia majority country, but there are only 32% consider themselves Shia, Now this has a 95% accuracy because 50,000 Iranians is the sample size. 'According to the results 78% of Iranians believe in God, but only 26% of them believe in the coming of the Messiah (Imam Mahdi).'*

*If you believe that there is just an unknown friend in the sky, you don't believe in any scriptures or anything else – that god is irrelevant, you are more or less an agnostic or an atheist. It is a religious thing that we have a problem with. '9% claim to be atheists and 22% do not align themselves with any religion. Half the population used to believe but does not any more and 6% have converted to a new religion.'*

*31% atheists and agnostics in Iran! Imagine how many of those non-believers would have to wear a Hijab. That is Western, lipstick feminist women empowerment. Just imagine 15% are women, they have to wear the Hijab. Of course they are going to come out, of course they are going to rebel. Of course they hate Islam. Of course they will burn the Koran. So many videos we have seen of people burning the Koran in Iran. That is what happens. 'Out of 61% of people born in religious families, 60% do not say their prayers. 68% of the participants believe that religion must not be the basis of legislation, 71% believe that religious institutions must be self-funded, and 42% believe that promoting any kind of religion must be banned from the public sphere. The results also indicate that 73% of the population disagree with the compulsory Hijab while 58% do not believe in the Hijab. 37% of Iranians drink alcohol regularly or occasionally despite its prohibition after the revolution'*

*So that is such amazing news coming out of Iran. And I hope to see the day when Pakistan shows such results. Atheism, agnosticism, skepticism is growing like wild fire in the Muslim world."*

## Ex-Muslims of North America

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*Former US Muslims Break Silence, Imam Supports Their Choice*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JumYFwssGmQ>

During the holidays a Washington bar hosted a private party. There was no shortage of booze – or blasphemy! *There is no god.*

The party was organised by ex-Muslims of North America. A support group for those who have left the faith. “You feel safe with these people”. Sameera Mukhtar grew up in the UAE and became an atheist after moving to the US. She says life after Islam has its pitfalls. “If someone asks you what you like to drink, I don't know. There are so many things out there – I don't know any of the names.”

There are many Muslim countries and of course the United States represented here tonight, and many of the people here say they never met a former Muslim before joining this group. Sarah Haidar: “He was the first ex-Muslim I ever met in my life and it was absolutely amazing.” Pakistani born Sarah Haidar who grew up in Texas is talking about co-founder Muhammad Syed. Haidar says fear prevents many people from talking about it. “They take it as a personal insult when you step out and step away from the religion and I understand why they think that it is. But I think that it creates a situation where people are afraid to speak their minds. Where this isn't really respected, on any level.”

Many here have asked not to be filmed. But there is a camaraderie that is born of a shared suffering, including death and disownment, Syed said: “We had it a lot of times when our members – their families find out, and we get a call at midnight that – I've been kicked out of the house and I need help.

Washington area Imam Mohammed Magid says some Muslims believe apostasy is a capital crime in their faith. And he insists they are wrong: “I ask those people – What are you teaching? Are you telling the person he has to pretend to be Muslim to be safe? What kind of religion is this?” [Note the 'duping delight' - the Imam struggles not to smile. Muslims are permitted to deceive. The Koran and other scriptures are very clear that there is the death penalty for apostasy.]

Major polling organisations have not published data on how many Muslims in the US leave, but former Muslims say the Internet has made it easier than ever to find each other. There are members in numerous cities.

# 10 Surprising People Who Left Islam

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## 10 Surprising People Who Left ISLAM for CHRISTIANITY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fB9uFyE-CQw>

- 1. Bahaa el-Din Ahmed Hussein el-Akkad.** A former Egyptian Imam. For more than 20 years he was a member of a fundamentalist Islamic group. In 1994 he published the book *Islam: the Religion*. He became disillusioned with Islam, and after carefully examining Christianity he converted to it in 2005. He was arrested on suspicion for blasphemy and finally released in 2007, having been held for two years without charge.
- 2. Mosab Hassan Yousef.** A Palestinian who worked under cover for the Israeli security service. The information he supplied was extremely valuable – preventing dozens of attacks. It led to the arrest of numerous terrorists including his own father who was a Hamas leader. He published his autobiography *Son of Hamas*.
- 3. Queen Nazli Sabri.** She was born in 1894. She was the first queen of Egypt from 1919 – 1936. She was of Turkish – French origin. In 1946 she left Egypt and went to the USA. She converted to Christianity.
- 4. Mohammed Ali Seineldin.** Born in 1933 in Uruguay. He was an army colonel. He converted from Druseism to Roman Catholicism.
- 5. Abdul Rahman.** Born in Afghanistan in 1965. He was threatened with the death penalty for converting to Christianity. He was finally released and was given asylum in Italy. His case brought international focus on the constitution of Afghanistan.
- 6. Johannes Avetarianian.** Born in 1861 in the Ottoman Empire. He was a descendant of the prophet Mohammed. His father was a Dervish. He became a Christian missionary.
- 7. Chamillionaire.** Born in 1979. His father was a Nigerian Muslim. He is a rapper and entrepreneur.
- 8. Queen Soraya Esfandiary-Bakhtiary.** Born in 1932. She was the queen consort, the second wife of the Shah of Iran. She was distrusted in Iran because of her half-European parentage. She moved to Paris.
- 9. Rima Fakhri.** Born 1985. She won Miss USA in 2010.
- 10. Imad ud-din Lahiz.** Born in India, 4<sup>th</sup> in line of Islamic scholars. He converted to Christianity in 1866, together with numerous relatives.

## KEY RESOURCES

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There are several organisations working in the area of Islam and also with ex-Muslims. Of course ex-Muslims and persecuted Christians, persecuted Hindus, Sikhs, etc. are in urgent need of support, understanding, and encouragement. If you are not able to directly support an ex-Muslim, then at least see what you can do to help these organisations that are helping them:

The Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain <https://www.ex-muslim.org.uk/>

British Pakistani Christians <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/>

Faith To Faithless <https://www.faithtofaithless.com/>

Ex-Muslims of North America <https://exmuslims.org/>

Elam Ministries <https://www.elam.com/>

The AHA Foundation <https://www.theahafoundation.org/>

Free Hearts, Free Minds <https://www.freeheartsfreeminds.com/>

A Civil Rights Movement for ExMuslims. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFgeoECRpBE>

Faithless Hijabi <https://www.faithlesshijabi.org/>

Alliance of Former Muslims in Ireland:

<https://allianceofformermuslims.com/>

If you know of other similar organisations, please contact me and they will be listed in the next edition of this book: [hellish2050@gmail.com](mailto:hellish2050@gmail.com)

## LETTER TO MUSLIMS

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Dear Muslim friend,

The greatest kindness that a non-Muslim can show towards a Muslim is to assist them to leave Islam. Islam itself has numerous elements that are harmful, including those harmful towards Muslims themselves (e.g. permitting marriage between first cousins — resulting in horrific genetic disabilities. Koran 33:50).

This letter is written in a spirit of friendship. I aim to be friendly towards you, even though I know that the Koran prohibits you from being friendly in return (Koran 9:23, 9:74, 5:51, 5:80-81, 58:14, 22:4, 4:89 etc.).

I also know that the Koran commands Muslims to be violent towards non-Muslims, and these verses have not been abrogated. The violent, intolerant verses abrogate the more tolerant verses. Understanding which verses in the Koran are abrogated (effectively deleted) and which verses supersede them is key to understanding the Koran, and hence, key to understanding Islam. I do recommend that you obtain the [Abrogated Koran](#); it is available via the Books page on the [hellish2050.com](http://hellish2050.com) website. Key verses are colour-coded by category, including a category showing the verses that command violent jihad. It is clearly the case that the Koran itself stirs up hostility against non-Muslims, and that there is a causal link between the instructions in the Koran and the jihad murders of non-Muslims. Given the increasing scope of anti-hate laws, it may be inevitable that it becomes illegal to read out publicly the intolerant verses from the Koran. Even the less hateful verses might be banned, since favourably quoting any of the Koran endorses it all.

An increasing number of non-Muslims do understand Islam and are no longer deceived by pro-Islam apologists or by deluded politicians. The message seems to have finally got through to politicians that the public can no longer be deceived. It is highly significant that after the two most recent jihad attacks (the murder of Sir David Amess MP, and the Shahid bomber at a maternity hospital in Liverpool), politicians did NOT immediately pronounce that it was “nothing to

do with the peaceful religion of Islam". After every previous jihad attack, politicians (including Boris Johnson after the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby) were quick to announce that it was nothing to do with Islam. The public is in no mood to be repeatedly lied to in this way, and so the game is up. Politicians have yet to find the courage to be totally honest about Islam, but it is clear that they are no longer prepared to tell lies on its behalf. This is progress!

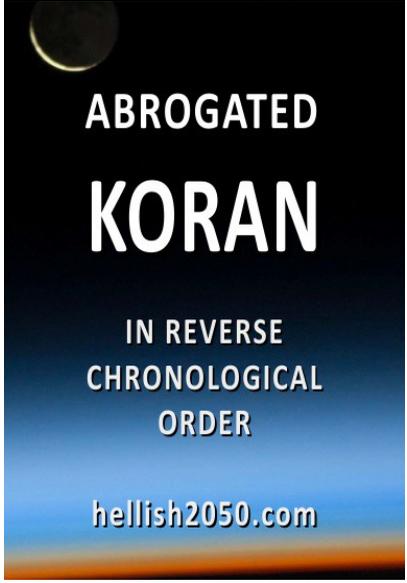
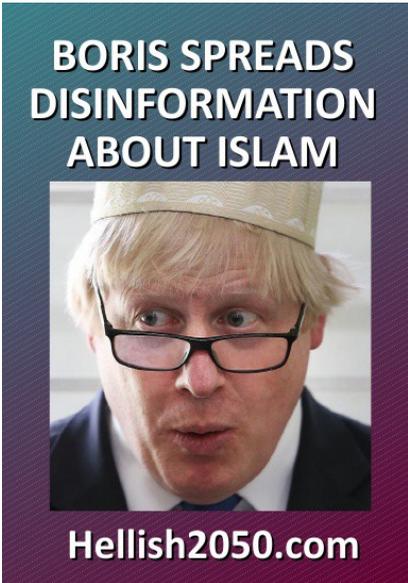
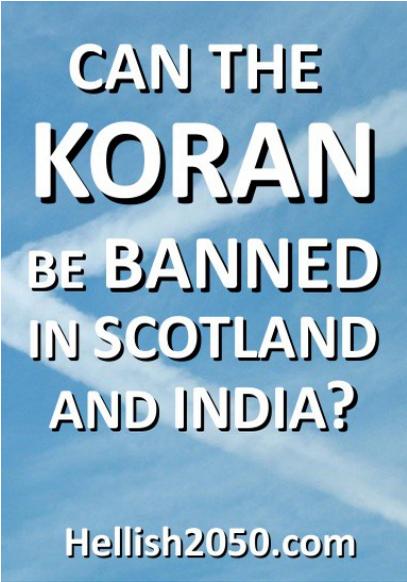
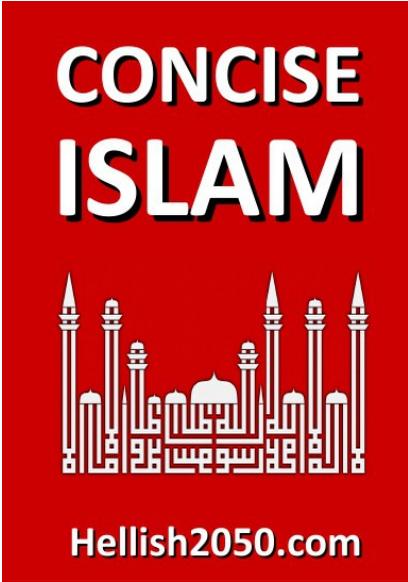
Why do Muslims abandon their religion? Increasing numbers are doing so, despite the death threats that they inevitably receive. As you must know, under Sharia law there is the death penalty for apostasy. If you go onto YouTube and type in "why I left Islam", you can find very many people explaining exactly why they did leave it. Primarily, they are utterly disgusted by Islam, and can no longer argue in favour of its teachings. They find many of the commands in the Koran to be morally repugnant. See the book [Why I Left Islam](#), which includes this statement by an ex-Muslim, Brother Ishmael:

*"[because of] the Koran and Mohammed, and their teachings on moral standards and conduct. You see, over the past few years I have found that I am no longer able to defend the Koran and especially Mohammed's morals and conduct. In the past I have done my best to defend Islam and in particular to defend Mohammed from the claims and charges made against him. I tried my best to love Mohammed, and I can prove that I stood up for him and defended him many times... As shocking as it may seem, both the Koran and Mohammed teach that it's permissible, Halal, to capture and rape female war captives, even if these women are married and their non-Muslim husbands are still alive [i.e., it is not regarded as adultery in this case]. So let's investigate the Islamic sources to see what they say: The Koran ...informs Muslim men about the categories of women who they are forbidden ... 'except those whom your right hands possess'. [Koran 4:24] No sane person in his or her right mind could defend the Koran and Mohammed on this issue. This is nothing more than legalised rape of married women, and I cannot believe that this is from God. So therefore I am rejecting the Koran and Mohammed on this issue. Now you have some idea why I left Islam."*

Western nations have made many great achievements in areas

where Islamic nations have utterly failed. The freedoms that Western nations have painfully developed, over centuries, have resulted in the flourishing of scientific understanding and technological innovation. And in social matters too, the West is far in advance of the Islamic nations. For example, slavery was abolished nearly two centuries ago in the West. Without the influence of the West, slavery would never be abolished in the Islamic world, for one simple reason: Mohammed kept slaves, and he is regarded as the perfect man, perfect for all time. The owning of slaves always was morally repugnant, so you must surely see that Mohammed was very far from perfection.

Muslim friend, you must decide for yourself: are you in favour of slavery and oppression, or are you in favour of freedom and equality? It is a binary choice. If you want to oppose slavery and oppression, then you have no choice but to abandon Islam. Millions of people have done so already — you will not be alone.



# THE IMPENDING **FRENCH CIVIL WAR**



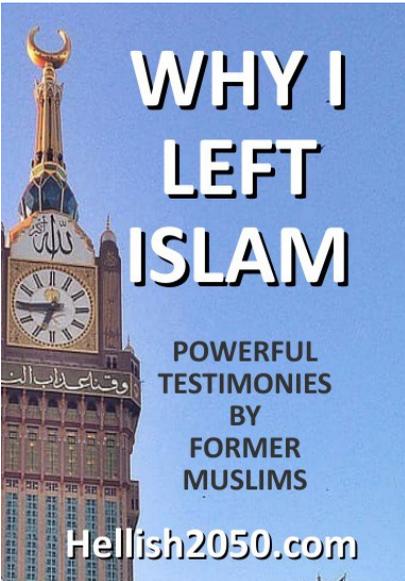
# The Calcutta Qur'an Petition Sita Ram Goel



# WHY I LEFT ISLAM

POWERFUL  
TESTIMONIES  
BY  
FORMER  
MUSLIMS

[Hellish2050.com](http://Hellish2050.com)



# THE PEACE KORAN

