

the cause of the 7/7 bombings was just due to conflict in such as all the wars and the conflicting politics in the East, and it was to make certain people look very bad

America wants world domination and they won't let other countries get in their way. I don't trust Tony Blair, he gets surrounded by other people all the time. America uses scare tactics so he has no choice.

I know who is to blame for the bombings. However, I do not think the people who are being accused aren't the right people. The evidence against them wasn't very strong. I do feel it was a conspiracy.

The police and the Government need to spend more of their money on what's more important, such as getting criminals. A major threat to society like murderers and paedophiles is a much greater threat than throwing accusations at random people. It is not to blame. I think it's the people who worsen the situation as the media and police. Islam in no way promotes violence against innocent people, and if these people who are responsible for the bombings were Muslims, then they must have been misguided if they thought it was okay. However, like I said, I don't think this was the work of Muslim brothers.

I think multiculturalism is a waste of time because I feel we are already divided by a number of things such as race, religion and politics.

I think that it is better for people to mix and speak so they can understand each other and realise things aren't as black and white as portrayed in the media."

*Shazia Sharif
recruitment consultant,
Norbury, South London*



always young Muslim men who are prepared to use their lives as bombs, exploding the hopes and dreams of the innocent, who have no power in the geopolitical games of the world.

"Brothers and sisters grow up in families with the same histories; they go through the experience of living with racism, and confused identities. So why do the girls not turn into nihilists and Stalinist Islamicists? I often ponder that question.

"If they are desperately seeking Paradise, supposedly full of virgins to be handed over to male martyrs, it doesn't seem the kind of place any woman should want to go to.

"I certainly don't."

*Yasmin Alibhai-Brown
Columnist, The Independent*

"AS A Muslim woman growing up in Tower Hamlets, I have first-hand experience of how insular and self-reliant our community is. Everything we need, be it material, physical or spiritual, is readily available from within our community.

"Many first-generation Asians can go weeks without speaking to a person of a different race or religion. Is this the way to perfect harmony? Never having to come in contact with someone who is different from yourself? If everything we need can be provided by our 'brothers' and 'sisters', why bother mixing with other cultures?"

"In short, isn't multiculturalism a waste of time?"

"I will not dismiss it as such, but I must admit that it is an ineffective tool against terrorism. In a world where Islam automatically equates to terrorism and where there is so much dissent among our youth, integration of different cultures may be the only way forward. But if we take a step back and look at the 7/7 bombings, we will see that the bombers were indiscriminate in their killing – they killed Muslims, non-Muslims, black people, white people and Asians alike.

"In today's climate, multicultural-

ism cannot stop extremists who mass murder without regard to whom they kill. In broader terms, however, multiculturalism is worthwhile.

"It can educate, broaden horizons and instill respect and tolerance between different cultures, which one day may evolve into something that is powerful enough to prevent such acts of terrorism.

"In areas that are predominantly Asian, where half the population cannot even speak English, one may ask how multiculturalism is even possible.

"It begins with a change of attitude. We may find it hard to fathom how our belief system can be reconciled with that of the West.

"However, if we stop closing ourselves off and make a real effort to talk to people of different cultures, maybe we will see that 'they' are not so bad and they will see that we are not so bad and, eventually, it will stop being 'Us' and 'Them' and it will be just 'Us'.

"Yes, it maybe is an oversimplification and a tad idealistic, but all the best ideas are."

*Kia Abdullah
author of Life, Love and Assimilation
www.kia-abdullah.com*



"I DON'T believe that Islam in any way to blame for the July 7 bombings. If anything, Islam is against terrorism or lawlessness of any kind. The Quran repeatedly condemns acts of terrorism, and one cannot find any example of killing innocent civilians, in particular, children and women from the days of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

"However, I believe the 'Muslim nation' today cannot go scot-free of any charge. We cannot deny that over the years, radicalism bordering on danger-

This was politicised by the mafia which was looking for young recruits to suit their purposes.

"Underlining all this were the stark facts of poverty and lack of education among the Islamic clergy. In the sub-continent from where most of the imams come to the UK, there is no organisation to check and authorise the religious education given to the masses. Any male with a mediocre knowledge of Arabic (a majority of Muslims learn to read and write Arabic without