

**BURQA BAN**

# Most Britons Would Ban Burqa in Public Places, Airports and Schools

*A proposal to ban the niqab is also supported by a majority of respondents, but hijab is not as controversial.*

[LONDON - Jan. 26, 2010] - As lawmakers in France openly recommend a ban on full veils, people in Britain believe that garments that cover the face should also be outlawed in the United Kingdom, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative national sample of 2,001 British adults **showed respondents pictures** of three different garments—the burqa, the niqab and the hijab—and asked whether their use should be forbidden in the UK under three specific scenarios.

## Burqa



The burqa is an outer garment worn by some Muslim women that is meant to conceal the entire body. In addition to a full veil, the burqa usually features a net that covers the eyes.

More than 70 per cent of respondents would agree with banning the burqa in public places

## KEY FINDINGS

- **More than 70% of Britons would ban the burqa in public places, at schools and universities, and at airports.**
- **At least 66% of Britons would ban the niqab in public places, at schools and universities, and at airports.**
- **67% think garments that conceal a woman's face are an affront to British values**
- **58% think the Government should not be allowed to tell individuals what they can and cannot wear**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From January 21 to January 22, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,001 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

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(72%), at schools and universities (79%) and at airports (87%).

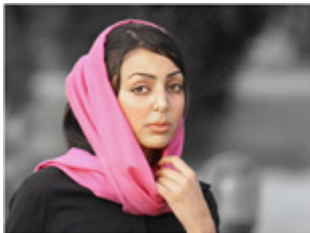
### **Niqab**



The niqab is also meant to conceal the entire body and also features a full veil, but differs from the burqa because the eyes are usually exposed.

Two thirds of Britons (66%) would ban the niqab in public places, while higher proportions would forbid the use of the garment at schools and universities (75%) and airports (85%).

### **Hijab**



The hijab is a type of head scarf that usually exposes the entire face. A majority of respondents believe the hijab should not be banned at airports (63%), schools and universities (69%) or in public places (75%).

### **Mixed Signals**

While two thirds of Britons (67%) believe that garments that conceal a woman's face are an affront to British values, a majority of respondents (58%) claim the Government should not be allowed to tell individuals what they can and cannot wear.

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### Burqa Ban

Here is a picture of women wearing the burqa.



Would you agree or disagree with banning the burqa in the UK in each of the following scenarios?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
<b>In public places</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>At airports</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>At schools and universities</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>4%</b>

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### Burqa Ban

Here is a picture of women wearing the niqab.



Would you agree or disagree with banning the niqab in the UK in each of the following scenarios?

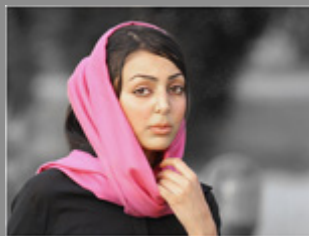
	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
<b>In public places</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>At airports</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>At schools and universities</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>4%</b>

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### Burqa Ban

Here is a picture of a woman wearing a hijab.



Would you agree or disagree with banning the hijab in the UK in each of the following scenarios?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
In public places	22%	75%	4%
At airports	34%	63%	3%
At schools and universities	28%	69%	3%

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### Burqa Ban

As you may know, there has been a lot of talk recently about the outfits of Muslim women in the UK and across Europe. Thinking about this, do you agree or disagree with each one of the following statements?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
<b>Garments that conceal a woman's face are an affront to British values</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>The Government should not be allowed to tell individuals what they can and cannot wear</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>6%</b>

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*Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995*

*Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), Springboard America ([www.springboardamerica.com](http://www.springboardamerica.com)) and Springboard UK ([www.springboarduk.com](http://www.springboarduk.com)) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.*

*Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.*

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

*Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.*

*More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at*

<http://bit.ly/3z0u1l>

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**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:**

**<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>**

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