

## **Report Summary – EHRC Research report 72: The impact of counter-terrorism measures on Muslim communities<sup>1</sup>**

The Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) published a [report](#) on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011 reviewing the impact CT measures are having on Muslim Communities. This included a section dedicated solely to Schedule 7 [section 3- pages 18-29] which is the focus of this summary. This is the first known report that actually investigates the use of Schedule 7.

This independent, qualitative research looks at the impact of counter terror measures on Muslims in Britain, and if this was different from other people. It examines the diverse experiences of Muslims on the street and in the community, at ports and airports, and in mosques, schools and universities, as a result of counter terrorism measures.

### **Key findings in relation to Schedule 7:**

- Schedule 7 is "having the single most negative impact on Muslim [communities]" [p. 86] although it is, of course, an issue affecting the wider ethnic minority community too.
- Schedule 7 was missed out of the government's recent counter terrorism reviews [p. vii].
- All participants- both Muslim and non-Muslim- expressed broad support for security measures that are necessary and important for maintaining safety [p. 18].
- Includes OSCT ethnicity FOI data 2010 [p. 20-21].
- Admissions of some of the police officers interviewed that this power is being used for intelligence gathering purposes and for recruiting informants [p. vii & 21].
- Police use flight risk assessments and target certain flights [and other transportation] routes which increases the likelihood of those travellers being stopped, giving the perception that racial profiling is occurring [p.21-2]. However, there are many people from ethnic minority backgrounds being stopped even on domestic or European flights [p. 22].
- Travellers are re-routing their journeys by travelling to other ports nearby or further away where they feel that they are less likely to be stopped [p. vii & 26].
- Questioning of people's religious and social views which does not have any obvious link to ascertaining whether the person is a terrorist or not leads to people stopped feeling an unjustified intrusion and feeling targeted because of their faith [p. 23-4].
- Some travellers are stopped and questioned on their associations to community groups or places of worship suggesting that they are under surveillance [p. 25].
- High degree of officers' discretion and the lack of a unified approach means that not all travellers receive assistance in rebooking missed flights or other means of travel [p. 26].
- Fears that the data collected during a stop or examination may be stored on security databases and affect their future travels [p. 26].
- Many officers are well aware of the negative impact this power is having on communities and know that this issue is "bubbling under the surface" [p. 27].
- Some police forces engage in community outreach [p. 27] whilst others do not see it as a priority or feel that the benefits of this security measure outweighs the negative [p. 86].

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<sup>1</sup> Tufyal Choudhury & Helen Fenwick (2011). *Research report 72: The impact of counter-terrorism measures on Muslim communities*. Equality and Human Rights Commission.  
[Accessed: 06.06.2011 ]

[Source: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/publications/our-research/research-reports/research-reports-71/>]

**Recommendations made by the report:**

- Calls for a review into the use of Schedule 7 [p. vii].
- Greater consistency and clarity over the support given to travellers missing their journeys as a result of being stopped and questioned or detained under Schedule 7 [p. 26].
- There should be greater parliamentary oversight over the use of this power [p. 28].
- Greater accountability and transparency with data on the precise use and scale of the power is needed [p. 29].