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Abercrombie hijab firing highlights Muslim concern about discrimination

BY [MICHAEL LIPKA](#)

Hani Khan, a former stockroom worker for Abercrombie & Fitch Co., was fired for refusing to remove her Muslim headscarf. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

A federal judge ruled this week that the clothing company Abercrombie & Fitch wrongly fired a Muslim employee in San Mateo, Calif., for wearing a headscarf. The retailer said the look of its employees is part of its marketing strategy, but, [according to the Associated Press](#), the judge found no “credible evidence” that the employee’s headscarf affected sales.

The company said it does not discriminate based on religion. Abercrombie has been the target of [discrimination suits in the past](#), brought by black, Hispanic and Asian employees

and job applicants.

About six-in-ten Muslim American women (59%) say they wear the headcover (or hijab) at least some of the time, including 36% who say they wear it whenever they are in public, according to a 2011 [Pew Research Center survey](#).

Most Important Problems Facing Muslim Americans

	2011
	%
Negative views about Muslims	29
Discrimination/Prejudice/Not treated fairly	20
Ignorance about Islam	15
Religious and cultural problems between Muslims and non-Muslims	7
Negative media portrayals	5
Acceptance by society	4
Problems among Muslims	4
Fundamentalist Muslims in other countries	4
Jobs/Financial Problems	4
Lack of representation/community involvement	2
US foreign policy/Wars	1
Other	5
Don't know	4
No problems	16

PEW RESEARCH CENTER 2011 Muslim American Survey. Q30. Figures add to more than 100% because multiple responses were allowed.

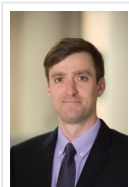
[The same survey](#) also explored the most important problems Muslim Americans say they face. One-in-five U.S. Muslims (20%) mention discrimination, prejudice and unfair treatment. Nearly three-in-ten (29%) point to negative views about Muslims, 15% mention ignorance about Islam and 7% indicate religious and cultural problems between Muslims and non-Muslims. Only 16% say there are no problems facing Muslim Americans.

Younger Muslim Americans are more likely to say they have faced hostility due to their religion. More than half (56%) of U.S. Muslims ages 18-29 say they have been treated with suspicion, called offensive names, singled out by law enforcement or physically threatened in the year prior to the survey. By comparison, 35% of Muslim Americans ages 30 and older say at least one of those things has happened to them.

Topics [Islam](#), [Muslim Americans](#)

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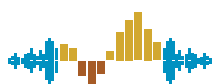
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