***Policy orientations regarding Muslim youth in the UK***

**Dr Ali Akbar Tajmazinani**

University of Glamorgan, UK

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Abstract**

The Muslim community and especially its young generation has been a focus for research and policy measures after 9/11 event in the U.S and its aftermath. It gained a wider attention in the UK after 7/7 events in London and various bodies within the British administration have attempted to implement a range of policy initiatives to deal with this community. The main objective of the paper is to map various policy initiatives directed at Muslim youth in the UK and their implied policy discourses and orientations. To meet this objective, two main questions are raised and tired be answered by analysing the existing policies: First, what are the main policy initiatives directed at Muslim youth (as part of the wider minority populations in the UK, as part of the wider Muslim community in the UK, or more specifically as a distinct group per se)? Second, what are the main discourses or orientations of these policy initiatives?

To answer the first question, main policy initiatives from the following bodies are reviewed:

* Local Government Association (LGA)
* Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG)
* Home Office
* Department for Children, Schools and Families
* The National Youth Agency

The existing policy initiative with direct or indirect impact on Muslim youth are categorised and studied under the following headlines:

* Social inclusion/ integration/ cohesion
* Security, policing and youth justice
* Youth work
* Education

With regard to the second question, a discourse analysis of the related policy documents suggests that two interrelated discourses of ‘Muslim youth as a problem’ and ‘Muslim youth as a threat’ are dominating these policy initiatives.

**Keywords:** Muslim youth, policy, social inclusion, social integration, United Kingdom

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