

# The Truth about Dominic Kennedy's Hate



Dominic Kennedy is referred to as 'the street thug journalist'. As this document clearly articulates, he has a **troubling attitude towards anti-Semitism, Racism, Homophobia, Islamophobia and Women's rights and has links to extremist organisations**. The delicious irony of course, is that he uses his platform at The Times to attack countless individuals people and organisations for allegedly spewing hatred.

In the wider context of increasing prejudicial attitudes towards Muslims in society and wide scale right-wing media coverage of a distorting and biased nature, anti-Muslim hate crime has to be seen in the environment of general hostility towards Islam and Muslims, which many Muslims argue makes them feel insecure about being a Muslim in Britain.

It is disconcerting, when academic analyses and official data points to an increase in anti-Muslim hate crime and prejudice, that professional scaremongering about politically engaged Muslims should be allowed to perpetuate the very conditions in which anti-Muslim hate crime flourishes.

Among those journalists who have actively engaged in manipulating information in order to capitalise on exacerbating public fears surrounding Muslims by maintaining Islamophobic discourses and publishing defamatory pieces about British Muslim organisations is Dominic Kennedy of the Times.

## A. Kennedy's troubling attitude towards Anti-Semitism, Homophobia, Racism and Islamophobia

Kennedy's aggressive comments are a frequent source of offence. However, a comment made on Twitter last year [caused national outrage](#) when Kennedy stated (jokingly or otherwise) that "So many of the **VIPs accused of being Paedophiles are Jewish or gay**. Maybe we could have a system to identify these people: triangles, stars..."



Dominic Kennedy ✓  
@TimesKennedy



Follow

So many of the VIPs accused of being paedophiles are Jewish or gay. Maybe we could have a system to identify these people: triangles, stars..

RETWEETS

2



4:45 PM - 5 Aug 2015

Kennedy's reference to triangles and stars refers to the way in which homosexuals were forced to wear an identifying pink triangle by the Nazis, while European Jews were legally compelled to wear yellow stars during the Holocaust.

Simon Johnson, chief executive at the Jewish Leadership Council, responded to Kennedy's outrageous remark by stating "*I utterly condemn the words and the tone of Mr Kennedy's tweet. What on earth does religion or sexuality have to do with the investigations? The suggestion to brand or identify suspects in the way that he suggests harks back to **the worst of Nazi ideology.***" Johnson further called on The Times to apologise for its association with Kennedy's "vile" comments.

Richard Verber, the Senior Vice President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, also argued that "*[w]hile Mr Kennedy's forced apology is welcome, further action is required. Millions of Jews and gay people died at the hands of the Nazis. For anyone, let alone a senior journalist, to trivialise the Holocaust in such a way is unacceptable. **The Times needs to open its own investigation into Mr Kennedy's actions.** Mr Kennedy should also visit the Nazi death camps to help him understand why his remarks are so offensive. The Board of Deputies would be happy to arrange that for him. Mr Kennedy's ignorant remarks are a timely reminder of the importance of Holocaust education.*"

In line with the outrage from Jewish communities, Kennedy's remarks must have been hugely distressing for LGBT individuals as well. For example, the image of pink triangles is hugely emotive and significant in symbolising the suffering and persecution of LGBT individuals. Indeed, in discussing the origins of the name of PinkNews, (the online news outlet directed at the LGBT community) CEO Benjamin Cohen remarks:

*"The story of the pink triangle, which the Nazis forced gay men to wear, can never be told enough, and I feel bad that we perhaps don't tell it enough ourselves in gay media. Thousands of gay men lost their lives in the Nazi persecution, which began for them with being forced to wear a pink triangle to mark them out from other enemies of the fascist state. For us at PinkNews, calling ourselves 'pink' anything is an act of reclamation of a colour previously used by our enemies as an insult."*

As such, while victimized minorities are attempting to reclaim such a powerful symbol of oppression, Kennedy chooses to use it in a clumsy joke?

While he did eventually apologise for the disgraceful remarks, this is an example of how such irresponsible conduct can cause emotional trauma to persecuted minorities for the sake of either banter or Kennedy's own professional purposes.

Furthermore, by promoting such prejudicial sentiments on a public platform such as Twitter, Mr Kennedy is arguably furthering a toxic and dangerous atmosphere of hatred.

## Negative Representation

[Studies conducted by Lancaster University](#) have demonstrated the ways in which Muslims and Islam are demonized and criminalized within the media. This coordinated propaganda against Islam in the media serves to perpetuate Islamophobic sentiments and create an atmosphere of hate, distrust, suspicion and fear of Muslims. It is this atmosphere that Kennedy seems personally committed to furthering and exploiting. In observing dozens of articles and twitter comments written by Dominic Kennedy over the last five years, our researchers could not find a single example of Mr Kennedy representing Muslims in a positive light. That is not to say it does not exist, but hours of research struggled to find anything.

Amongst the thousands of words written by Kennedy on issues concerning Muslims, he makes no reference to all the positive contributions that Muslim communities make in the UK, whether these contributions be in the fields of charitable donations, entrepreneurship, politics, entertainment, sport, involvement in the NHS, contribution to the UK economy, or investment in the UK's sporting and business institutions.

## B. Biased Reporting



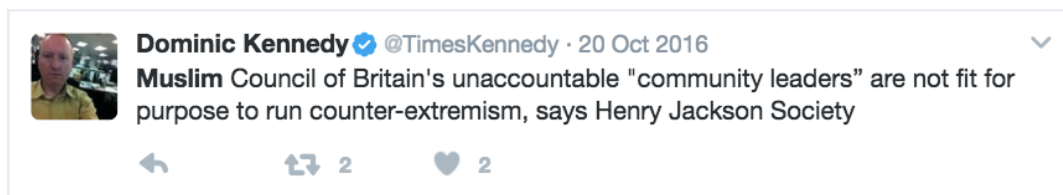
Kennedy has repeatedly been guilty of representing the perspectives of far-right extremist groups and individuals as neutral and objective facts. A good example of this was an article Kennedy wrote in 2014 regarding the release of new census figures surrounding the British Muslim population. While it would have been possible to present a neutral statistical analysis of the data, Kennedy stuck to his anti-Muslim agenda and incorporated a skewed analysis from sources whose agendas mirrored his own.

When advertising the piece on his twitter feed, he described the new figures as “startling” – an adjective with immediate negative connotations. In his reference to “startling new census figures”, Kennedy is actually quoting David Coleman, who Kennedy correctly introduces in the article as Professor of Demography at the University of Oxford. However, Kennedy fails to credit Coleman with his other role as the co-founder of the right-wing campaign group, Migration Watch – a group which has a well-established record of feeding the [anti-immigrant hysteria](#) of the right-wing press. As such, Kennedy fails to present Coleman as the biased source that he actually is; instead he uses Coleman's position at the University of Oxford as cover for neutrality.

The trend here is evident – the use of biased and politically motivated sources to support his own views and present them objective independent expert sources.

In reality, such comments serve to enhance the image that Kennedy was already attempting to create – that of the Islamification of Britain. To back up this picture of cultural Islamification, Kennedy further references Danny Lockwood, whom he cites as the source for his claim that “the fast-growing young Muslim population in Kirklees Borough had led to old pubs, hospitals, houses and public buildings being turned into Muslim private schools, madrassas, mosques and a Sharia court”. Lockwood is introduced as publisher of the Yorkshire newspaper *The Press*. Like Coleman, in possible attempt to disguise this source’s true agenda, Kennedy again makes no mention of Lockwood’s [far-right links](#) or of the fact that he is author of a “[vanity-publishing exercise in anti-Muslim scaremongering](#)” entitled [The Islamic Republic of Dewsbury](#).

### C. Promoting right-wing extremist organisations



In another example, Kennedy promoted rhetoric of the Henry Jackson Society (HJS) on his twitter feed. The HJS is a far-right think tank, with links to neo-conservative groups in the US, that has been repeatedly criticised for demonising Muslims and Islam. In March 2017, a parliamentary event organised to launch a report by the society was boycotted by Met Police deputy chief and assistant commissioner, Mark Rowley, who was supposed to appear on the event’s panel. At a recent Home Affairs Select Committee hearing, the current Home Secretary Amber Rudd was forced to distance herself from the Henry Jackson Society when a committee member read out HJS’ appalling Islamophobic record.

Rowley is not the only high profile figure to have distanced themselves from the organisation. David Anderson QC, the former independent reviewer of counter-terrorism legislation stated "I do not associate myself with all the activities and statements of the Henry Jackson Society. Indeed, I declined their invitation to the launch in case there should be any misunderstanding about this."

So, while leading figures within counter-terrorism are distancing themselves from the HJS, Kennedy colludes with them by providing a news platform to their dubious, right-wing and dangerous analysis of counter-terrorism.

Once more, we see that journalistic integrity is not one of Kennedy’s priorities. He uses far from neutral sources to skew analysis within his stories and prop up his own purposefully distorted worldview.

### D. Kennedy’s Lack of Respect for Human Rights and his Opposition to Women’s Freedom of Choice and Expression of Identity

Respect for minority rights are enshrined in both the Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Article 9 of both the Human Rights Act and the ECHR provides for freedom of thought, belief and religion, while Article 10 protects the freedom of expression. These Articles are further strengthened by the right to protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms. Kennedy frequently pays lip service to some of these human rights when he shows his staunch

support for banning the face veil and in the [aggressive way in which he approaches any news story that involves Muslim women's dress](#).

 **Dominic Kennedy** @TimesKennedy · 24 Jul 2014  
People are asking where to sign the **Muslim** e-petition to Downing Street asking MPs to ban the face veil. Here's a link



**Petition: BRITISH MUSLIMS CALL ON PARLIAMENT...**  
Following the ECHR ruling upholding the French ban on public face-masking, the UK should follow suit by outlawing all garments, including balaclavas, hoodies...  
[petition.parliament.uk](http://petition.parliament.uk)

← ↻ ❤

 Dominic Kennedy Retweeted

 **Secularism UK** @NatSecSoc · 26 Jan 2016

Ofsted to consider rating schools inadequate if face veils affect learning. Veil totally inappropriate in schools.



**Schools where face veils are a "barrier" to learning and social interac...**  
The head of Ofsted Sir Michael Wilshaw has announced that he is giving his "full support" to schools that "take a stand against the inappropriate wea...  
[secularism.org.uk](http://secularism.org.uk)

← 2 ↻ 8 ❤ 7

 Dominic Kennedy Retweeted

 **Maryam Namazie** @MaryamNamazie · 8 Mar 2016

Here @aliaaalmahdy explains her topless protest against hijab:  
[freethoughtblogs.com/maryamnamazie/...](http://freethoughtblogs.com/maryamnamazie/)  
Long Live IWD!

← 2 ↻ 27 ❤ 37

Put simply, nobody can take such a thug's journalism seriously!