IN BRIEF

IDENTIFYING ARTICLES FROM THREE NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS, THE GUARDIAN, DAILY TELEGRAPH AND DAILY MAIL, THE REPORT CATALOGUES INSTANCES OF RELIGIOUS REQUESTS AND RESPONSES TO PUBLIC ISSUES. THE RESULTS WERE ANALYSED PRODUCING A COMPREHENSIVE DATA-SET OF FAITH-BASED CLAIMS IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE.

3945 CLAIMS FROM 5 RELIGIONS

CHRISTIANS PARTICIPATED IN 67% OF ALL CLAIMS, MUSLIMS IN 31%, JEWS 7%, SIKHS 4% AND HINDUS IN 3%.

2011 ENGLAND AND WALES CENSUS FIGURES FOR EACH RELIGION ARE: CHRISTIANS: 59%, MUSLIM: 5%, HINDUS: 2%, SIKHS: 2%, JEWS: 0.5%.

ISSUES ARISING BY FREQUENCY

PUBLIC LIFE: 17.5%
EDUCATION: 13.5%
EMPLOYMENT: 10.7%
PUBLIC POLICY: 10.7%
PRO-LIFE: 10.4%
DISCRIMINATION: 7.5%
ANTI-TERRORISM: 6.7%
FOREIGN POLICY: 5.8%
FAMILY: 4.6%
JUSTICE: 4.5%
The Muslim Council of Britain, a national umbrella group of Muslim organisations, was the most frequent of all the religious actors, narrowly beating the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The chart (right) shows the 'top ten' religious actors and their percentage of all 5804 religious actors identified.

Timeline of all claims:
The graph (left) illustrates the surge in coverage of Christian and Muslim claims during the middle of the decade. Claims rose dramatically for a variety of reasons, particularly increasing concerns about the perceived diminishing role of Christianity in society as well as responses to the 7/7 bombings and counter-terrorism measures.

See section 1, figure 6 for more.
HOW THE PAPERS REPORTED CLAIMS

REPORTING OF RELIGIOUS REQUESTS

THE DAILY MAIL REPORTED 43% OF ALL RELIGIOUS CLAIMS, FOLLOWED BY THE DAILY TELEGRAPH AT 32% AND THE GUARDIAN AT 25%.

84% OF CLAIMS WERE REPORTED IN NEWS ARTICLES, 11% WERE REPORTED IN COMMENT PIECES OR EDITORIALS.

TOTAL CLAIMS BY RELIGION, BY PAPER

A COMPARISON OF THE PROPORTION OF CLAIMS IN EACH PAPER, BY RELIGION

SECTION 1, FIGURE 17 (P. 29)

NEWSPAPER SUPPORT FOR CLAIMS IN OPINION PIECES

SECTION 5 FIGURES 17 (DM), 43 (DT) & 69 (G)
quick notes on religious claims

- The Muslim Council of Britain was the most frequently cited religious actor but 72% of all religious actors in the top ten were Christian
- The Daily Mail reported the most claims involving other religions (multi-faith)
- The Guardian reported the highest proportion of minority faith claims
- Two-thirds of Muslim claims came between 2004-07, partly due to the 7/7 bombings
- Religious representatives made up only 7% of Muslim actors - the rest coming from community representatives and individuals
- Judaism is the only religion in which representatives were more likely to be involved in multi-faith claims than act alone
- Sikhism is the only religion for which individuals rather than community representatives or religious actors formed the biggest number of actors
- Nearly one third of Hindu claims related to agriculture and rural affairs, with the protection of sacred animals being their largest concern
- Top issues related to public life, education, employment, public policy and pro-life
- Two thirds of all multi-faith claims involve combinations of Abrahamic faiths exclusively
- The Guardian was the least supportive of religious requests, supporting just 31% - the other papers supported all multi-faith claims, especially in conjunction with their own campaigns