

efforts to crack down on organized crime. Regular harassment of homosexuals and transgender persons by police in New York City culminated in 1969 in the Stonewall riots, which were triggered by a police raid on a gay bar. And in the aftermath of the 2001 September 11 attacks, Muslim Americans began to voice complaints about police brutality, including harassment and racial profiling. Many local law-enforcement agencies launched covert operations of questionable legality designed to surveil and infiltrate mosques and other Muslim American organizations in an effort to uncover presumed terrorists, a practice that went unchecked for at least a decade.

The forms of police brutality to which this situation gave rise were variable and generally not limited to physical assault (e.g., beatings) and excessive use of force. They also included unlawful arrests, verbal abuse (e.g., racial slurs) and threats, sexual assaults against African American women, and police homicides (murders of civilians by police). Police were also sometimes complicit in drug dealing, prostitution, burglaries, protection schemes, and gun-smuggling within African American neighbourhoods.

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FEMALE MUSLIM POLICE OFFICERS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Many girls who wear the hijab aspire to have a career in the police force, but there are only a few who really accomplish this dream. While several countries around the world accept hijab as a part of official police uniform, some countries forbid it and for example claim it's contrary to the values and practices of a secular state. Nevertheless, Muslim women who wear a hijab always have to fight all kinds of stereotypes to have a career. But some women in the pictures below prove to the world that they can be who they are and still rock their police uniform. Among them are:

policewomen in Dubai; Maha Sukkar, who made history in November 2004, when she became the first Australian police officer to wear a hijab; Donna Eljammal (became Sweden's first police officer in a hijab); Mona Tabesh is the first woman to wear a hijab in a Toronto Police Service uniform, which represents a token of accurance and a step to encourage other Muslim women to work in the police departments; Kadra Mohammed is Minnesota's first hijab-wearing police woman and the first female officer of Somali origin; Indonesian female police officers are allowed to wear their hijab while on duty since March, 2015; since August 2016, female officers in Turkey are allowed to wear a hijab under their caps or berets – the force said they hope the move will “encourage women from Muslim communities, who may previously not have seen policing as a career option to reconsider.”

Police force reveals uniforms for Muslim women in UK first. A new police uniform has been developed specifically for Muslim women in an attempt to recruit more black and minority ethnic officers. West Yorkshire Police is the first force in the country to launch the new loose fitting uniform ‘designed not to show the female form’, bosses said. It is hoped the uniforms will improve race equality among applicants after police chiefs were told to do more to appeal to BAME recruits. The force – like many across the country – already allowed female officers to wear the hijab. Assistant Chief Constable Angela Williams said: ‘For the last month we have been trialling a new uniform for women which is designed not to show the female form. ‘This was suggested by a Muslim female officer and was designed by our Clothing Manager in conjunction with the officer. ‘The tunic is a looser and longer fit, and has full sleeves. ‘This has been well-received from officers in the force and we have now made further supplies of this uniform for other officers to trial it if they wish.’ Bradford-based PC Firzana Ahmed became the first to wear the new uniform which, she said, had attracted ‘positive feedback from the local community’. Ms Williams added: ‘I hope this uniform will encourage people from underrepresented groups to consider a career in policing if they had previously been put off joining the force due to the uniform. ‘We are open to suggestions from all communities on how our uniform can be styled to better suit their needs.’ West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel had quizzed police chiefs on Friday about what they were doing to boost the number of BAME recruits. Panel member Roger Grasby said the force had seen some success in boosting the number of staff who were female, disabled or lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) but ‘less so with BAME’. The proportion of its workforce from a BAME background increased marginally from 5% in 2015 to 5.6% this year.

All-female units of Dubai Police are being trained in long-distance shooting and raiding targets. The move is part of a proposal to set up all-female sniper and raid task forces which is currently under study by Dubai Police, according to a statement that the force released yesterday. "The plan has been put on the table as the Emirati woman has proved her competence in the work of security despite the high level of danger accompanying this profession," said Captain Massoud Ibrahim, head of the female police unit at Dubai Police, which comes under the General Department of Organizations Protective Security and Emergency. There are currently 34 officers in Dubai Police's female police unit. Last year it carried out 71 missions, the majority of which were to "receive and safeguard personalities", according to the statement. Although it is unclear when the new security units will be set up, female officers have already started receiving training in distance shooting on both fixed and mobile targets, and are being taught how to raid places such as prisons. They are also receiving training in areas that were previously confined to men, such as negotiating water barriers, fences, trenches and swamps, according to Captain Ibrahim. However, for some female police officers, the main challenge is not the nature of the tasks they are given but people's attitudes towards them. "One of the main challenges that we face during our work is unwillingness of members of the public, especially men, to follow our orders," said Naima Shukri, a female officer. "We need to learn how to deal with such situations, but we are given a lot of support." The female officers have learned how to go through their daily tasks while wearing the abaya. "This development is important because now they can safeguard high profile personalities without attracting attention to them as they would be in abaya and thus be able to enhance security," said Captain Ibrahim.

Decision to install 'pretty' traffic wardens in Christian town Brummana sparks debate over sexism. Quiet, leafy Brummana is the centre of an unlikely row in Lebanon this summer, after the town's mayor insisted that female police officers wear shorts as part of their seasonal uniform. A team of around five young women has now joined the police force of the Christian town about 17km (11 miles) in the hills above Beirut as traffic wardens for the summer, wearing red berets, black T-shirts and black shorts. While the initiative has certainly attracted attention, not all of it has been positive. Mr Achkar's decision to install "pretty" traffic wardens has sparked a debate in the national press and social media over what diverse, modern Lebanon should look like. Many people have pointed out the shorts policy is discriminatory because men are not also expected to get their legs out at work. Other critics have said the idea is offensive to more

conservative elements of Lebanon's mixed Christian and Muslim population.

"In trying to lure tourists, to ape the West, you are becoming the ape yourself", one Twitter user wrote. "Even women police officers in the West are smartly dressed, what's the need to expose your women," said another. "Women's bodies tend to be oversexualised and objectified everywhere, not just in Lebanon," Saja Michael, gender and diversity technical advisor at gender equality charity Abaad, told *The Independent*. "What a woman wears is of course her own choice. The issue here is it's not necessarily her choice – it's being made for female employees by powerful men." While women in Lebanon enjoy greater freedoms than in many Middle Eastern countries, they are still underrepresented in the workforce and in the public sector in particular. This year's election only managed to bring the total of female MPs to six, up from four in 2009, despite the fact a record 89 women stood for the 126 seats available. "In one sense, good women are more visible in these public positions," Ms Michael said. "As an organisation that combats gender-based violence we would worry, however, the way this has been done could increase their exposure to street harassment and contribute to an unsafe work environment." The women – all in their early twenties and halfway through university degrees – do not seem too bothered by their uniform. Residents have voiced concerns, however, over noise levels and road congestion – already a major problem across Lebanon, which lacks adequate public transport.

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