

Polls show widespread unease about Islamic face coverings

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Two recent Yougov polls asked questions about the burka, niqab and hijab. The first for [The Sun](#) asked respondents whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement "The burka should be banned in Britain." 66% agreed and 27% disagreed.

Pollsters then asked "So long as they are not harming anyone else people should be free to wear whatever they want in a public place, including the burka." 38% agreed and 54% disagreed.

63% thought employers ought to have the right to ban the burka in the workplace, with 23% thinking they shouldn't have the right to ban it.

[The Sunday Times poll](#) asked whether respondents would support or oppose women's right to wear a hijab (headscarf covering the hair). 25% would support a ban while 65% would oppose it.

The same question was asked about the niqab (face veil) which resulted in 66% supporting a ban with 24% opposing a ban. For the burka the result was 67% supporting a ban with 23% opposing.

When asked whether schools should be allowed to ban students wearing niqabs or burkas, 76% said they should have the right to ban them with 16% saying they shouldn't. In hospitals 81% said they would support a ban on staff wearing niqabs or burkas with 11% saying they wouldn't.

In court only 6% thought a defendant should be able to wear a veil over her face throughout the whole trial; 35% said they should be made to take it off while giving evidence but allowed to wear it the rest of the time. 54% said the veil should be removed for the whole trial.

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