

In-Depth Interview Guide

Open and introduction

Hello, thanks for joining me today. I'm _____, an independent moderator conducting a series of interviews about community issues that researchers want to know more about. They are very interested in your thoughts and experiences. Before we begin, let's go over a few pieces of information about the discussion.

- There are no right or wrong answers. Your honest opinions are what is most important.
- We only share overall findings in a report for researchers. Your identity will remain anonymous.
- I will be taking notes and recording this session so that I can accurately capture your thoughts and feelings, but everything you share is confidential.
- Do you have any questions for me before we begin?

Background about neighborhood and occupation

Okay, let's get started by talking a little about where you live in the _____ area, and _____ in general.

1. How long have you lived in the _____ area?
 - a. What was the reason that you settled in or moved to this area?
2. Many people, including those who have lived here for generations or who consider themselves to be descendants of indigenous groups, have stories about how they came to live in the United States. Do you know what brought you, your parents, or family to the United States? (If they don't know, ask for anything that they can recall about that.)

People often describe the neighborhoods in which they live in different ways. We are interested in learning more about the neighborhood where you currently reside.

3. What are the demographics like --- age, SES, race and ethnicity?
 - a. Would you say that you interact with people from different racial, religious, or cultural backgrounds in your neighborhood? What are those experiences like?
4. Do you know your neighbors? If so, do you socialize with them?
 - a. If yes, how often would you say you socialize with your neighbors? What kinds of activities do people do to socialize in your neighborhood?

Next, I'd like to hear more about your educational background and community involvement in general

5. People report having different kinds of educational experiences. Some report experiences where they interact with people who are culturally or religiously different from them while others report attending schools and universities that are more homogenous. Thinking about your education, did you meet people whose experiences were culturally or religiously distinct from your own? [skip if short on time]
 - a. How did those experiences make you feel?
 - b. If immigrant: Have you had any educational experiences in the United States? How did these experiences compare to your educational experiences abroad?
6. Are you a member of any type(s) of social, cultural, civic, or community organizations?
 - a. If yes, ask what kind of organization
 - b. If yes, tell me more about your experiences in this organization(s)
 - c. How often do you participate in meetings or events related to this organization?

What other organizations?

7. If they don't mention religious institutions, ask explicitly. Do you attend a church, temple, mosque, or other place of worship?
 - a. How often would you say you attend?
 - b. Do you participate in community events with your congregation?
 - c. What kinds of events do you participate in?
8. How important is religion in your daily life?
9. [Exclude Latino Muslims] Have you ever met someone of the following faith groups?
 - a. [We can list a few] Note: Muslim should be included here.

Experiences and perceptions with discrimination

10. I am interested in the way you have been treated in the United States and whether you have been discriminated against because of your race, ancestry, religion, or immigration status. As you may know, discrimination can take many forms such as being unfairly denied a job or promotion or being fired; unfairly treated by the police; unfairly prevented from renting or buying a house or an apartment; being unfairly treated or bullied in school or college, being treated unfairly or badly at restaurants and stores. Based on your experiences, have you ever been treated in this way because of your race, ancestry or religion?

- a. If yes, tell me more about these experiences. How did these experiences make you feel?
 - b. If no, do you think that “people like you” have been treated unfairly in the United States because of their race, ancestry or religion?
11. What about people from other racial and ethnic or religious groups? Do you think other groups in the United States are treated unfairly because of their race, ancestry, religion, or immigration status?
 - a. If yes, which groups do you think face discrimination?
 - b. How does knowing about this discrimination make you feel?
 - c. Do you think this discrimination is a major issue, a minor issue, or no issue at all?
12. If not mentioned, probe about Muslim Americans.
 - a. What type of discrimination, if any, do you think Muslim Americans experience in their everyday lives?
 - b. Why do you think that is?
 - c. Do you think Muslim Americans are the targets of discrimination from other racial/ethnic groups, and if so, from whom?
13. If not mentioned, probe about Muslim American women..What about Muslim American women? What type of discrimination, if any, do you think they experience in their everyday lives?
 - a. Why do you think that is?
14. If not mentioned, probe about African Americans.
 - a. What type of discrimination, if any, do you think African Americans experience in their everyday lives?
 - b. Why do you think that is?
 - c. Do you think African Americans are the targets of discrimination from other racial/ethnic groups, and if so, from whom?
15. If not mentioned, probe about Indigenous or Native Americans
 - a. What type of discrimination, if any, do you think Indigenous or Native Americans experience in their everyday lives?
 - b. Why do you think that is?
 - c. Do you think they are the targets of discrimination from other racial/ethnic groups, and if so, from whom?
16. If not mentioned, probe about Asian Americans.
 - a. What type of discrimination, if any, do you think Asian Americans experience in their everyday lives?

- b. Why do you think that is?
 - c. Do you think Asian Americans are the targets of discrimination from other racial/ethnic groups, and if so, from whom?
17. [Muslim recruits] As a Latino/Hispanic [use preferred term] Muslim, how would you describe your everyday experiences and interactions within the Latino community?
- a. If you converted to Islam, would you say these experiences are different from your experiences prior to your conversion?
 - b. [probe if necessary] Generally, do you think you face discrimination from within the Latino community because you are Muslim?
 - i. If so, how so or in what ways?
 - ii. If not, why do you think that is?
18. [Muslim recruits] As a Latino Muslim, how would you describe your everyday experiences and interactions within the Muslim community?
- a. Do you feel that you are treated differently
 - b. If not, why do you think that this?
19. Some people have a very positive view of Muslim Americans, why do you think that may be?
20. Some people have a very negative view of Muslim Americans, why do you think that may be?

Prior experiences with Muslim Americans

21. [Exclude Latino Muslims from this question] I am interested in the types of interaction, if any, that you have had with people of other racial, ethnic, or religious backgrounds. We just want to get a sense of the people you encounter in your everyday life and what those encounters look like. This could include the different people you see at the grocery store, the people you work with, those that you consider friends/family, or even just people you see in your neighborhood. Based on your experiences, have you ever met someone who is Muslim?
- a. If so, can you elaborate on that?
 - b. If not, why do you think that is?
 - c. If not, what would you want to know about Muslims in the U.S.?

Perceived commonalities with Muslim Americans

22. We are interested in learning more about what similarities and differences you see between Muslims and Hispanics/Latinos. Some people think these two groups have a lot in common, while other people think that they do not have a lot in common. For each of the following questions, I would like you to think about whether you think Muslims are similar to or different from Latinos/Hispanics. It is okay to say that you are unsure or don't know. We are most interested in your honest opinion.
- a. When it comes to religion, do you think Muslims and Latinos have similar/different religious values?
 - b. When it comes to marriage and the family, do Muslims and Latinos have similar/different family or marital values?
 - c. When it comes to politics, do Muslims and Latinos have similar/different political values?
 - d. When it comes to work ethic, are Muslims and Latinos similar or different in how hardworking they are?
 - e. When it comes to facing discrimination, are Muslims and Latinos similar or different in their experiences?
 - f. When it comes to being targeted by political leaders, are Muslims and Latinos similar or different in their experiences?
23. What about your prior experience or just general knowledge of African Americans, do you think there are any commonalities or similarities between you, as a Hispanic American, and African Americans?
- a. If so, what do you think they are?
 - b. If not, why is that?
24. And finally, what about your prior experience or just general knowledge of Asian Americans, do you think there are any commonalities or similarities between you, as a Hispanic American, and Asian Americans?
- a. If so, what do you think they are?
 - b. If not, why is that?

Attitudes about political issues and parties

We are also interested in your opinions about political issues today.

25. What are the top issues facing the United States today?
26. [Probe about economy if not mentioned as a top issue; otherwise skip]How do you think the economy is doing right now where you live?

27. Thinking specifically about the two main political parties. If you had to say what each political party stands for today, what would you say?
 - a. Ask each respondent to take a minute to think of 2 things each party stands for
28. Many people today report being concerned about the trajectory of democracy in the United States. Have you seen anything in the media talking about threats to democracy? What did you hear?
 - a. Do you agree or disagree with what you heard?
29. Over the last few years, there has been a wave of violence against Asian Americans. How important is it for people like you to stand up against this violence?
30. What about the Black Lives Matter movement? Is it important for Latinos to support BLM? Why do you think that?
31. Okay, turning next to immigration policy. What have you heard lately about what either of the two parties is doing on immigration policy? How important of an issue is this for you in _____? Is it an important issue you think needs to be fixed?
32. During the Trump presidency, there was an executive order that banned people from primarily Muslim countries from coming to the United States or a so-called "Muslim Ban." Were your views mostly favorable, unfavorable or neutral towards this policy? Why do you feel this way?
33. Do you think refugees from the Ukraine, who are displaced because of the war with Russia, should be allowed to settle in the United States? Why do you feel this way?
 - a. What about other refugees who have been displaced by war such as people from Syria and Afghanistan?

Why do you feel this way? [probe differences if response is different]

Focus Group Moderating Guide

Moderator: Thank you all for participating today in this discussion. I wanted to begin with a few remarks about the goals of this discussion along with a few things to keep in mind. First, there are no right or wrong answers. Anytime you would like to say something or respond to someone else's comment, please feel free to do so but allow the other person to finish. Second, if someone raises a point that you want to hear more about or discuss further, we encourage you to politely and respectfully invite one another into deeper conversation. It is okay for people to disagree, but we kindly ask that you do not personally attack someone for their opinions.

The purpose of this discussion is to learn more about your opinions. It will be kept confidential and only shared with researchers. I need each of you to say whether you consent to this discussion being recorded.

At this time, do you have any questions for me?

So, I want to begin by doing a brief word association exercise. I will say a word and I want you to tell me the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word. We will go around the room so that everyone can share what they thought of. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word Latino? What do you think the average American thinks when they hear the word Latino?

What do you think when you hear the word Muslim? [Ask about what average American thinks]

Next, we're interested in learning more about your everyday interactions with people from other racial/ethnic/social groups. For example, do you have prior interaction with people who look or speak differently than you?

- a. If so, how did you know they were different than you? Or rather, how did you know they weren't [Hispanic/Latino]?
- b. Would you say these experiences / interactions were positive/negative/or both?

Now, I'd like to focus on whether you have had prior interactions with Muslims in America or somewhere else. Have you ever met someone who is Muslim?

- a. Where/How did you meet?
- b. Can you recall how old you were? We are most interested in whether your interaction occurred as an adult or as a child or teenager rather than an exact age.
- c. How did you know or suspect they were Muslim?
- d. Would you say these experiences / interactions were positive/negative/or both?
 - a. Is there anything specific that you remember about those interactions?

Regardless of whether you have met someone who is Muslim, have you ever seen portrayals of or heard about Muslim people in the media, including the news, television shows or movies, the radio, and/or the newspaper?

- a. How did the media represent Muslim people or Islam?
- b. What did you think of the images or words used to describe them?
 - a. [probe if necessary]: Did you agree with them? Did you disagree with them? Do you wish something else may have been said?

What about portrayals of Hispanics/Latinos in the media?

- a. How did the media represent Hispanics/Latinos?
- b. What did you think of the images or words used to describe them?
 - a. [probe if necessary]: Did you agree with them? Did you disagree with them? Do you wish something else may have been said?

We are interested in learning more about what you know about Islam, which is the religious faith practiced by Muslim people.

- a. How much would you say you know about Islam? Where did you learn about Islam?
- b. What do Muslims believe?
- c. What do Muslims believe about Jesus?
- d. Do you think that Muslims and Christians believe in the same God?
- e. If someone close to you, such as a friend or family member, said they were thinking about converting to Islam, what would you say to them? Would you have concerns or reservations and, if so, what are they?

[play video about Islam]

Having now seen this video about Islam, is there anything that you learned about this religion or Muslim people?

- a. Was anything in the video surprising to you?
- b. Would you say that the representations of Muslims/Islam in the media are accurate representations of this religious group now that you have watched this video?
- c. Do you think that Muslims and Christians have similar religious values? [If non-Christians are present, expand language to ask about other faiths]

Do you think a Latino can be Muslim?

Do you think there are any similarities between you, as a [Hispanic/Latino] and Muslim-Americans?

- a. If yes, could you explain why that is?
- b. If not, could you explain why that is?

What about differences? Are there differences between you, as a [Hispanic/Latino] and Muslim-Americans?

- a. If yes, could you explain why that is?

- b. If not, could you explain why that is?

Now that you have reflected on whether Muslims and Latinos are similar or different (or both), do you think these two groups can work together to solve problems that they might face?

- a. What problems, if any, do you think they can work together to solve? Why?
- b. What about working together with other groups? Are there other groups in the United States that Latinos and Muslims could work together with to solve problems?

Could you tell me a little about your experiences as a [Hispanic/Latino] in the U.S., do you feel that you've ever been discriminated against?

- a. If yes, why do you think that is?
- b. If no, why do you think that is?

Now turning to the way Muslim-Americans are treated in this country, do you think they are treated differently because of their faith?

- a. If yes, why do you think that is?
- b. If no, why do you think that is?

As you may or may not know, some Muslim women wear head coverings referred to as a 'hijab' (pronounced he-JAB) –. I'm going to show you a picture in case you have never seen one before or are unsure about what they look like.

- a. Now that you've seen these images, have you ever seen a Muslim woman who wears a hijab or head covering.
- b. Why do you think some Muslim women wear these types of head coverings? Do you think they voluntarily choose to wear them?
- c. What do you think the hijab means to the Muslim women who wear them?
- d. Do you think that Muslim women are treated differently because they wear a hijab or some other type of head covering?
- e. What about Latinas? Have you ever seen a Latina wearing a hijab or head covering?
 - a. What about portrayals of the Virgin Mary wearing a head covering? Is this different or the same? What about when Catholic Latinas wear veils to church? Is that different or the same as when Muslim women wear a hijab? Why?

That is all the questions that we have for you today, thank you for participating.

Additional Focus Group Moderating Guide

Moderator: Thank you all for participating today in this discussion. My name is Alejandro Flores, I am a Senior Analyst with Latino Decisions. I wanted to begin with a few remarks about the goals of this discussion along with a few things to keep in mind. First, there are no right or wrong answers. Anytime you would like to say something or respond to someone else's comment, please feel free to do so but allow the other person to finish. Second, if someone raises a point that you want to hear more about or discuss further, we encourage you to politely and respectfully invite one another into deeper conversation. It is okay for people to disagree, but we kindly ask that you do not personally attack someone for their opinions.

The purpose of this discussion is to learn more about your opinions. It will be kept confidential and only shared with the research team working on this specific project. I need each of you to say whether you consent to this discussion being recorded.

At this time, do you have any questions for me?

So, I want to begin by doing a brief word association exercise. I will say a word and I want you to tell me the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word. We will go around the room so that everyone can share what they thought of. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word Latino? What do you think the average American thinks when they hear the word Latino?

What do you think when you hear the word Muslim? [Ask about what average American thinks]

Now, I'd like to focus on whether you have had prior interactions with Muslims in America or somewhere else. Have you ever met someone who is Muslim?

- a. Where/How did you meet?
- b. Can you recall how old you were? We are most interested in whether your interaction occurred as an adult or as a child or teenager rather than an exact age.
- c. How did you know or suspect they were Muslim?
- d. Would you say these experiences / interactions were positive/negative/or both?
 - a. Is there anything specific that you remember about those interactions?

We are interested in learning more about what you know about Islam, which is the religious faith practiced by Muslim people.

- a. How much would you say you know about Islam? Where did you learn about Islam?
- b. What do Muslims believe?
- c. What do Muslims believe about Jesus?
- d. Do you think that Muslims and Christians believe in the same God?
- e. If someone close to you, such as a friend or family member, said they were thinking about converting to Islam, what would you say to them? Would you have concerns or reservations and, if so, what are they?

[play video about Islam]

Having now seen this video about Islam, is there anything that you learned about this religion or Muslim people?

- a. Was anything in the video surprising to you?
- b. Do you think that Muslims and Christians have similar religious values? [If non-Christians are present, expand language to ask about other faiths]
- c. Did the video affect how you might feel if a close friend or family member was thinking about converting to Islam?

Do you think a Latino could be Muslim? How come?

Could you tell me a little about your experiences as a [Hispanic/Latino] in the U.S., can you think of a time where you felt like your or your culture has been misunderstood? I'd like to hear a little about the experience if you can recall any details.

- a. How did that make you feel?

Now turning to the way Muslim-Americans are treated in this country, do you think they are treated differently because of their faith? Do you think they experience similar feelings about being misunderstood?

- a. If yes, why do you think that is?
- b. If no, why do you think that is?

As you may or may not know, some Muslim women wear head coverings referred to as a 'hijab' (pronounced he-JAB) .

- a. Have you ever seen a Muslim woman who wears a hijab or head covering.
- b. Why do you think some Muslim women wear these types of head coverings? Do you think they voluntarily choose to wear them?
- c. What do you think the hijab means to the Muslim women who wear them?
- d. Do you think that Muslim women are treated differently because they wear a hijab or some other type of head covering?
- e. What about Latinas? Have you ever seen a Latina wearing a hijab or head covering?
 - a. What about portrayals of the Virgin Mary wearing a head covering? Is this different or the same? What about when Catholic Latinas wear veils to church? Is that different or the same as when Muslim women wear a hijab? Why?

[play video]

Having now seen this video about women who wear the hijab, is there anything that you learned about why women wear hijabs?

- a. Was anything in the video surprising to you?

- b. Do you think that Muslim women are misunderstood when it comes to other people's perceptions about what the hijab signifies and why they might wear them?
- c. How do you think that makes them feel?
- d. Any additional probing/questions related to the video that comes up organically in discussion

That is all the questions that we have for you today, thank you for participating.

30-minute discussion with Latina, Muslim woman who wears a hijab.