



Do Interfaith Marriages Work?

Interfaith Marriages



"I believe in recognizing every human being as a human being - neither white, black, brown, or red; and when you are dealing with humanity as a family there's no question of integration or intermarriage. It's just one human being marrying another human being or one human being living around and with another human being."

- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*



Malcolm X

(Iconic civil liberty champion)

Interfaith Marriages



Interfaith marriage/mixed marriage

a religious or civil union between partners practicing different faiths and religions.

Ms Naomi Schaefer Riley

takes a look at interfaith marriage trends in the U.S. and says they are more likely to end in divorce.




Children in mixed unions

are twice as likely to be brought up in their mother's religion as their father's faith.



Interfaith Marriages

Interfaith weddings



Increasingly welcomed
in most societies

The image features a world map with a vertical line at the 0-degree longitude (the Prime Meridian). A callout box on the left side of the map, labeled 'WEST', points to the Western Hemisphere. A callout box on the right side of the map, labeled 'EAST', points to the Eastern Hemisphere. The text in the 'WEST' callout indicates that interfaith marriages are increasingly welcomed in most societies there. The text in the 'EAST' callout indicates that such marriages lead to honor killings, religious violence, and much anguish for those involved.

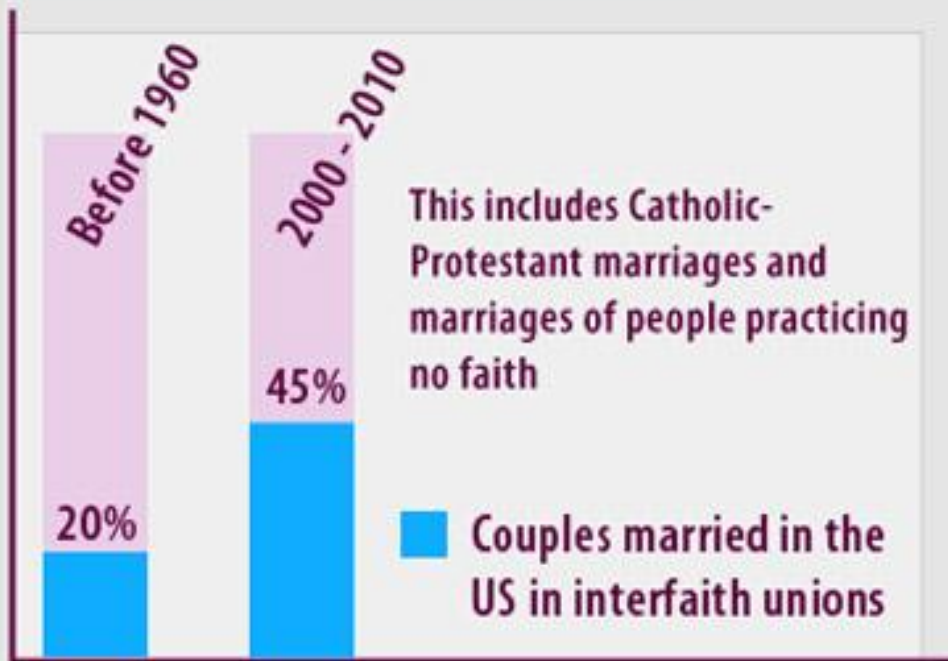
WEST

EAST

Lead to honor killings, religious
violence, and much anguish for
those involved

The American Dream

Interfaith marriages are celebrated as a part of progressive society



Jews in the U.S.



Have undergone a complete intermingling



Higher rate of interfaith marriage than Muslims elsewhere

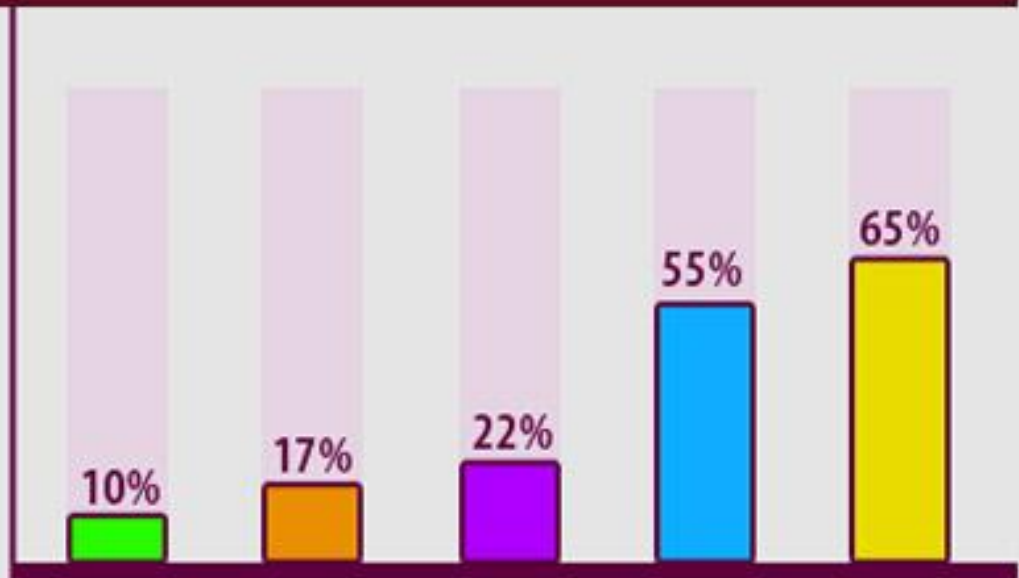
American Muslims

The American Dream

2008

Americans in interfaith marriages

- Hindus
- Mormons
- Catholics
- Buddhists
- People unaffiliated with any religion



Study by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life

The American Dream

2010

Survey of 2,450 Americans in interfaith marriages

YouGov

Likelihood of being in an interfaith marriage/union

JEWS



were the most likely to be in weddings between individuals of different faiths

MUSLIMS



were rated somewhere in the middle

MORMONS



are the least likely to marry into a different faith

Interfaith Unions And Divorce



Naomi Schaefer
Riley writes

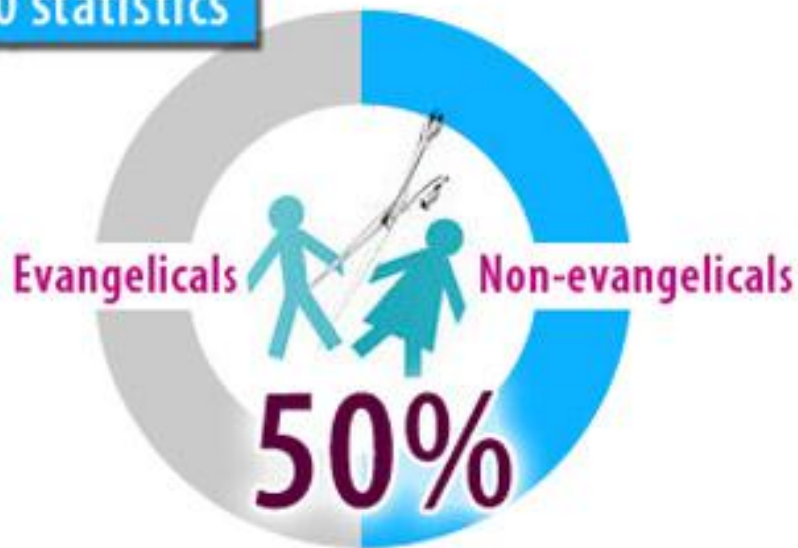
“... interfaith marriages often come with a heavy price. They are more likely than same-faith unions to be unhappy and, in some circumstances, to end in divorce. They also tend to diminish the strength of religious communities, as the devout are pulled away from bonds of tradition and orthodoxy by their nonmember spouses”



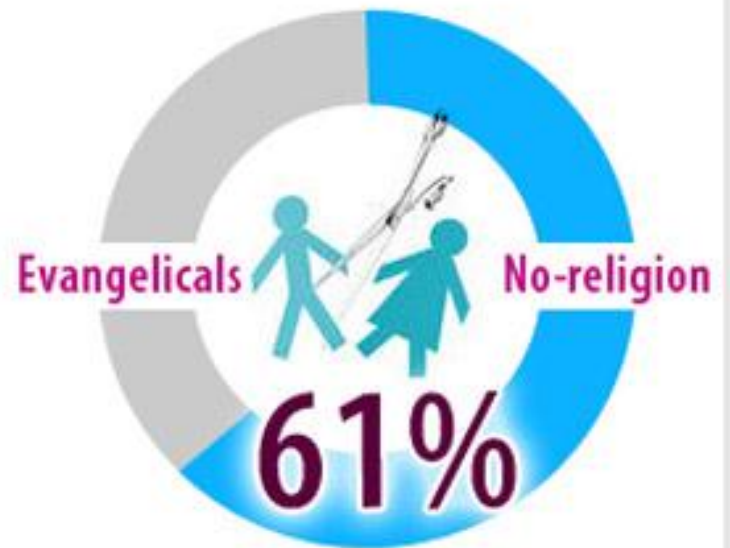
Interfaith couples were less satisfied than same-faith couples. The more religiously active one or both of the spouses the unhappier the marriage would be.

Interfaith Unions And Divorce

2010 statistics



Marriages ends in divorce



Marriages ends in divorce

Highest levels of satisfaction
in interfaith marriages



Divorce rates similar to those
married to other Catholics



Interfaith Unions And Divorce



Evangelicals

&



Black Protestants

Least satisfied with their unions in interfaith marriages

2009

According to the research paper published by **Margaret Vaaler, Christopher Ellison, and Daniel Powers** of the University of Texas at Austin



husband attends religious services more frequently than his wife

RISK OF DIVORCE
is higher when



wife is more religiously conservative than her husband

All About Religion

While some religious doctrines prohibit interfaith marriages, others are more accommodating towards mixed unions within limited circumstances or provided some preconditions are met.



Christianity

Different denominations practice their own set of rules

Has grown liberal in recent times



All About Religion

Judaism



**Traditional or
Orthodox Judaism**

**Conservative Judaism accommodates
gentile spouses with hope that they
could be converted into the faith**



**Modern-day liberal Rabbis
are willing to officiate**



**Couples persuaded to
raise Jewish children**



All About Religion



Islam



Not allowed to marry
outside the faith



Men granted permission but conversion
is often a pre-condition

Mandatory that the
children be raised to
be Muslims



All About Religion



Zoroastrianism

Rigid in disallowing
interfaith marriages



Followers who marry outside the
faith are expelled from religious
services

Children are also not
allowed to participate in
religious activities



All About Religion



Hinduism

Traditional Hinduism does not allow for religious conversion but is tolerant of other faiths



In theory, non-Hindu spouses are welcome

In practice, Hindus are often orthodox and rigid and interfaith marriages are prohibited



All About Religion



Baha'i Religion

Welcomes a non-Baha'i partner

The Baha'i ceremony to sanctify the wedding must be performed



Same-Faith Mixed Marriages

Inter-denomination marriages, though between individuals of the same religion



have all led to violent oppositions, protests, and bloodshed across the world.

According to a 2013 survey



15-19 age group

marrying men of a lower caste than their own in the south Indian states

Tamil Nadu : 0%

Kerala : 12.5%

Tamil Nadu : 98.68%

Girls between 15 and 19 years of age in Tamil Nadu marry men of their own caste.

Same-Faith Mixed Marriages



20-24 age group

marrying men of a lower caste

Tamil Nadu : 2.05%

Kerala : 16.5%



The Shia-Sunni strife has been one of the major conflicts of the Arab world.



IRAN

\$2000

awards to any Shia-Sunni couple tying the knot.



SAUDI ARABIA

intermingling is strictly prohibited

HARYANA

The government has offered to reward a non-Scheduled Castes bride or groom for marrying a member belonging to Scheduled Castes

Rs 50,000 (incentive)

In the past 3 years, only **289** couples have claimed the incentive.

Fear Or Faith?



Honor killings

Honor killings in the name of religion have become a common occurrence in Southern Asia and the Middle East.



United Nations estimates there are over **5000** cases of honor killings each year



Women's groups fear over **20,000** honor killings each year.

Fear Or Faith?



Ghazala Hayat

'Honor killing is not an act of faith', *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"Though religions are "claimed" to be the source of teachings for honor killings, this practice is going on for thousands of years... Men who migrate to West from these patriarchal societies at times feel out of control, alienated, becoming more rigid in their ideas. A poll conducted by BBC Asian network showed that 1 in 10 of the 500 Sikhs, Christians, Muslims and Hindus would condone honor killings"

2010

GONAY OGMEN

A Christian Armenian from Istanbul gunned down his 26-year-old sister Sonay who married a Muslim Kurd, Zekeriya Vural.

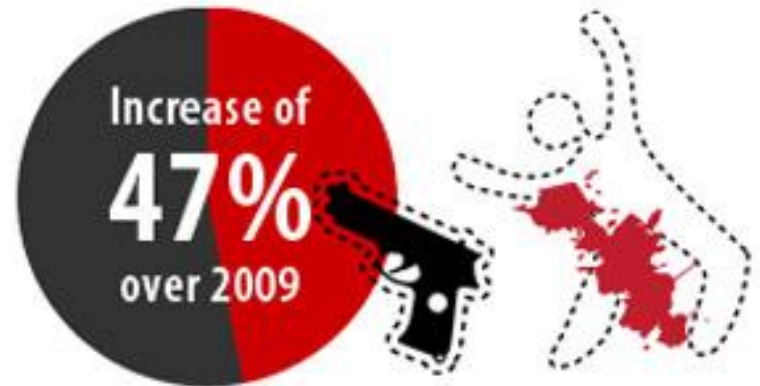


Fear Or Faith?



The Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation

over **2,800**
honor-related killings
in the UK in 2010



Till Faith Do Us Part



Ceremony

The wedding itself requires much thought. Often couples choose to add features or spiritual leaders from both religions.

More common in the eastern part of the world is social or religious ostracism. Interfaith marriages could cost one or both partners their families, friends, and even jobs.



Ostracism



Birth Control

The use of birth control and family planning are dictated quite rigidly by many religions. Interfaith partners need to agree on this issue.

Till Faith Do Us Part

While followers of certain religions are permitted to abort unborn fetuses, abortion is considered a sin in many faiths.



Abortion



Belief In God

'Which God to believe/worship?' is an important issue interfaith couples grapple with.

Keeping the faith becomes a bone of contention, often. Attendance becomes an issue especially when one partner is an atheist or practices no faith.



Religious Attendance

Till Faith Do Us Part



Faith of the Children

One of the most important issues of contention among interfaith couples is the faith in which their children will be raised.

While some religions such as Roman Catholicism forbid divorce, other religions are far more liberal in this respect.



Divorce

Till Faith Do Us Part

Young couples are increasingly turning towards non-marital cohabitation as a solution preferring to live together without marriage to entering interfaith marriages.



American Jews in unions with non-Jews were cohabitating and not in marriages

2012 Report in the *Jewish Journal*

Celebrity Interfaith Unions



Katie Holmes (Catholic)
Tom Cruise (Scientologist)

Idina Menzel (Jewish)
Taye Diggs (Christian)



Sasha Baron Cohen (Jewish)
Isla Fisher (No faith)

Chelsea Clinton (Methodist)
Marc Mezvinsky (Jewish)



Celebrity Interfaith Unions



Katy Perry (Evangelical Christian)
Russell Brand (Atheist)



Tony Blair (Anglican)
Cherie Blair (Catholicism)

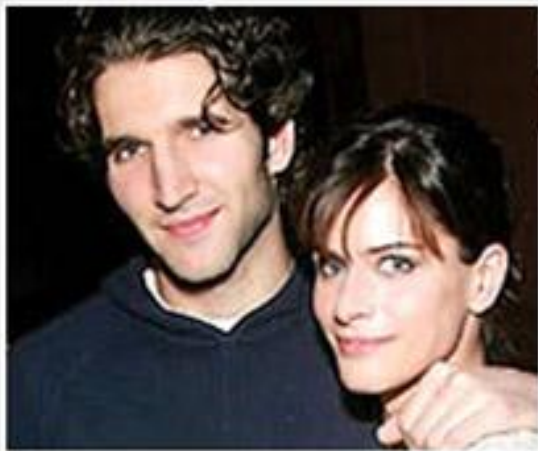


Liz Hurley (Church of England)
Arun Nayar (Hindu)



Courtney Cox (Christian)
David Arquette (Jewish)

Celebrity Interfaith Unions



Amanda Peet (Quaker)

David Benioff (Jewish)



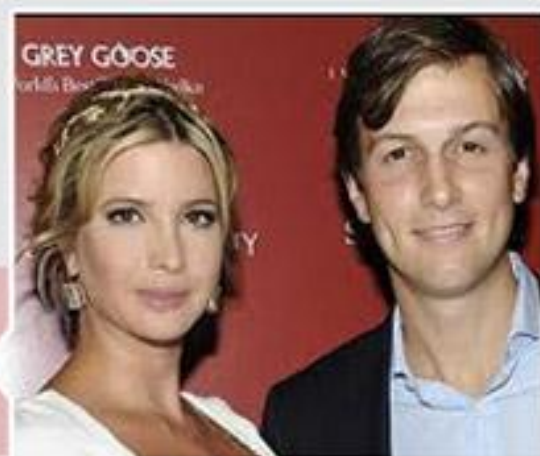
Cokie Roberts (Catholic)

Steve Roberts (Jewish)



Iman (Muslim)

David Bowie (Agnostic)



Ivanka Trump (Christian)

Jared Kushner (Jewish)

Celebrity Interfaith Unions



Rita Wilson (Greek Orthodox)

Tom Hanks (Christian)

Do Interfaith Marriages Work?

Vote now on frydaypoll.com



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Sources for data have been mentioned in Text Version