

DiReSoM

Diritto e Religione nelle Società Multiculturali/ Law and Religion in Multicultural Societies/ Derecho y Religión en las Sociedades Multiculturales/ Droit et Religion dans les Sociétés Multiculturelles/ Recht und Religion in Multikulturellen Gesellschaften/ 多元化社会中的法与宗教 / القانون والدين في المجتمعات متعددة الثقافات



The Pointer Institute, No race or religion can prevent coronavirus — don't fall for these hoaxes

18 MARZO 2020

[Click here \(https://www.poynter.org/fact-checking/2020/no-race-or-religion-can-prevent-coronavirus-dont-fall-for-these-hoaxes/\)](https://www.poynter.org/fact-checking/2020/no-race-or-religion-can-prevent-coronavirus-dont-fall-for-these-hoaxes/)

by Cristina Tardáguila

Let's make it very clear: There is no scientific data to support claims that a certain race or religion makes you stronger or weaker against coronavirus 2019.

So if you see a post on Facebook or Instagram, a video on YouTube, a message chain of WhatsApp or Line, or a tweet with that kind of "fact," consider yourself in front of false information.

All races are equally likely to be infected. The same goes for Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hinduists and those who believe in all other religions. They are equally protected — or unprotected — against the disease that has already killed more than 2,700 people.

The alert becomes vital these days because [the #CoronaVirusFacts / #DatosCoronaVirus alliance \(http://poy.nu/2019CoronaVirusFacts\)](http://poy.nu/2019CoronaVirusFacts), which brings together 90 fact-checkers from 39 countries under the coordination of the International Fact-Checking Network, has identified a series of falsehoods with this profile.

Among the 558 fact-checks already published by the project, there are several that try to demonstrate that race and religion do not influence the likelihood of contamination. This means that false news producers are working hard in the opposite way.

On Feb. 19, for example, fact-checkers from [Taiwan Fact-Check Center \(https://tfc-taiwan.org.tw/articles/2608\)](https://tfc-taiwan.org.tw/articles/2608) found viral claims on Facebook and Line about a scientific study that "proved" how East Asians were more likely to become infected with the new coronavirus than other Asians because they have four to five times more ACE-2 receptors. That is false. The study was published in 2005 and referred to the Severe Syndrome Acute Respiratory (SARS) — not COVID-19.

Fact-checkers from [Dubawa \(https://dubawa.org/sub-saharan-africans-are-not-blessed-with-coronavirus-resistant-skin-or-blood/\)](https://dubawa.org/sub-saharan-africans-are-not-blessed-with-coronavirus-resistant-skin-or-blood/) in Nigeria published an article demonstrating that there is no scientific evidence that black skin and/or blood aren't resistant to the coronavirus 2019. In Nigeria, Twitter was filled with the "information" that subsaharianos (those living in the areas of Africa below the Sahara Desert) had been blessed and that they would be strong enough to face the new disease. False, too. In its fact-check, Dubawa makes it clear that the World Health Organization says that anyone can get the coronavirus if they approach another contaminated person.

False news about religion has also demanded fact-checkers' attention. Religion is not a way to protect yourself against the new disease.

In three countries — India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia — social media platforms hosted various videos allegedly showing Chinese or Asian people converting to Islam after "realizing that Muslims were not being infected with the coronavirus 2019." False.

Videos verified by [Newschecker.in \(https://www.newschecker.in/article/news-detail/275_14901149\)](https://www.newschecker.in/article/news-detail/275_14901149) in India, [Fact Crescendo \(https://english.factcrescendo.com/2020/02/20/chinese-people-converting-to-islam-in-fear-of-coronavirus/\)](https://english.factcrescendo.com/2020/02/20/chinese-people-converting-to-islam-in-fear-of-coronavirus/) in Sri Lanka, and [Tempo \(https://s.id/emKxf\)](https://s.id/emKxf) and [AFP \(https://factcheck.afp.com/video-](https://factcheck.afp.com/video-)

[shows-islamic-conversion-saudi-arabia-may-2019-months-novel-coronavirus-outbreak](#)) in Indonesia are edited versions of the same recording made in Saudi Arabia in May 2019 — seven months before the start of the coronavirus outbreak. And Muslims are getting infected.

But in countries with large Muslim populations, this kind of content gains traction and spreads fast — something that concerns not only fact-checkers but also health authorities.

These beliefs can keep infected people away from real treatment, and those who are at risk of contamination far from preventative measures, promoting real harm.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the United States [says](#) (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Fabout%2Ftransmission.html) that anyone can be infected with the coronavirus 2019. Those who want to avoid the disease should not approach another contaminated person should not have contact with their saliva, cough or mucus; and should not share objects or surfaces.

Race or religion have no influence.

Read this article in Spanish at [Univision](https://www.univision.com/noticias/opinion/ninguna-raza-o-religion-esta-libre-del-coronavirus-2019-no-crean-en-noticias-falsas) (<https://www.univision.com/noticias/opinion/ninguna-raza-o-religion-esta-libre-del-coronavirus-2019-no-crean-en-noticias-falsas>).

Categorie: [Documents](#) •

[Creato su WordPress.com.](#)