## Oxford, England: Seven Muslim Men Convicted on Underage Sex Ring Charges

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Seven Muslim men were convicted on charges ranging from false imprisonment to rape and assault. The five victims were between 13 and 15 years old at the time, and it was reported that the gang preyed on girls who had a background of problems at home. The men exploited the young girls on a massive scale that included gang rape. The men await sentencing, which is set for June. -GEG

Seven men have been found guilty of grooming and raping underage girls aged 13 to 17, plying them with drink and drugs and abusing them at sex "parties" and in a van known as the "shag wagon".

The seven-man grooming gang was described as "predatory and cynical" by a judge as the jury announced their decision on Friday following a five-month trial at Oxford Crown Court.

The men, aged between 37 and 48, denied what prosecutors described as "sexual exploitation on a massive scale" — but were found guilty of charges including multiple

counts of rape, indecent assault, false imprisonment, and supplying drugs.

Reporting on the gang of what the BBC described as "Oxford men" was previously restricted, and two men involved in the trial still cannot be named for legal reasons.

The guilty men were named as Assad Hussain, 37, of Morrell Avenue; Moinul Islam, 41, of Wykeham Crescent; Raheem Ahmed, 40, of Starwort Path; Kamran Khan, 36, of Kersington Crescent; Kameer Iqbal, 39, of Dashwood Avenue; Alladitta Yousaf, 48, of Bodley Road; and Khalid Hussain, 38, of Ashurst Way.

Two others, Saboor Abdul and Haji Khan, were acquitted of all charges. Six of the attackers were from Oxford and one from Bolton, Thames Valley Police said. Their five "vulnerable female victims" were aged 13 to 17 when they were abused from 1998 and 2005.

"Systematic and widespread grooming, that is what this case has revealed," remarked Judge Peter Ross, who presided over the trial.

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