Abstract
The terror attacks that have engulfed many parts of the world and which are blamed on radical and extreme groups have put Islam and Muslims on focus. Indeed the terror attacks have heightened a growing sense of Islamophobia apparently because majority of the perpetrators of the atrocities are people purporting to profess the Islamic faith. And therein is the paradox! Should the activities and “sins” of individual Muslim(s) or group(s) be visited on an entire community and religion? This paper attempts to demonstrate that although contemporary Islam may be portrayed through the media as a religion with a predilection to conflict, aggression and violence, peace is the kennel of Islamic religion and one of its significant ingredients. Indeed, it is shown that, the Qur’an, and to a greater extent the Hadith contains a repertoire that could form a paradigm of peace against the background of belligerency wrought in radicalism, extremism and terrorism. It is noted that Islamic teachings are invariably given extreme interpretations and perverted to legitimize violence, aggression and atrocities by radical and extremist individuals and groups, to further their agenda on real or perceived enemies.