

## OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

### Working Session 14

#### Tolerance and non-discrimination including Islamophobia

Warsaw, 30 September 2015

**As the new waves of refugees arrive in Europe and the United States — Muslims and Islam occupy even more attention in the minds of politicians, public opinion shapers and ordinary citizens.** EMISCO is deeply worried about the rise of attacks motivated by the anti-Muslim hatred especially since the Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack. We declare unambiguously that international developments, including acts of terror perpetrated by violent individuals or groups self-identifying with Islam, can never justify intolerance against Muslims. We are still waiting for the concretization of the Ministerial Declaration on intolerance against Muslims which will help a lot to ensure the effective struggle of this rising form of specific hatred.

In this way, we condemn all type of discrimination against Muslims and endeavor to prevent and protect against attacks directed at Muslim communities across the OSCE region, whether on persons or on places of worship or religious objects;

We note the disproportionate and specific impact of intolerance against Muslims on women, who are exposed to intolerance, discrimination and hate crime when trying to access their rights to, inter alia, education and employment.

We acknowledge the essential contribution made by civil society in preventing and responding to intolerance against Muslims, including by providing psychological and legal support to victims of hate crime and discrimination, as well as their engagement with local authorities and equality bodies.

We demand the use of Islamophobia **in the official documents** as an established concept, defined as a form of discrimination and racism, as well as an **`orchestrated fear`** targeting individuals and communities based on their alleged adherence to the Islamic faith.

#### **We call upon the participating States to:**

- Encourage political leaders and public figures to speak out strongly and promptly when anti-Muslim incidents occur as well as for other majority religions;
- Re-define European values through an inclusive, pluralistic approach **based on a Reflexive VIRTUE ethics** that acknowledges the fruitful historical interaction between Judeo-Christian and Muslim values in order to move towards a more inclusive definition of what Europe stands for today;

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- Introduce a new contract between governments, majority societies, and all ethnic and religious minorities, based on this re-defined discourse about “Western values”.
- Take steps to effectively address intolerance against Muslims in the OSCE area, both in preventing and responding to incidents by implementing concrete measures in every level;
- Implement existing OSCE commitments related to monitoring hate crime and collecting relevant data on incidents targeting Muslim communities, ensuring that data is disaggregated to show specific bias motivations related to religion;
- Ensure that security measures and anti-terrorism efforts are not directed at any specific ethnic, religious or cultural group, in their design, implementation or impact;
- Collaborate with local civil society groups, and Muslim communities, through effective partnerships and strengthened dialogue to address intolerance, discrimination and to promote mutual respect and understanding.
- Encourage cultural and religious diversity in public debates, as well as in consultations during important legislative initiatives.
- Make progress in **intercultural and interreligious education** as recommended in the Council of Europe Reference Book on Religious Diversity and Intercultural Education published in 2007 in line with the European Cultural Convention (1954) (ETS No. 18) which underlines the need for education to develop mutual understanding between peoples.

**We call upon the ODIHR to:**

- Facilitate open discussion and constructive dialogue among and between government officials, civil society, and religious or belief communities with the aim of implementing OSCE commitments on the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief;
- Highlight patterns on intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, in order to better understand and proactively address intolerance and discrimination against Muslims;
- Foster broad civil society co-operations, and the sharing of best practices among stakeholders, on educational initiatives, as well as other measures to raise awareness of intolerance against Muslims;

In conclusion, **we underline that Islamophobia is not just a Muslim issue, it is a European issue for us all. Everything that needs to be done should be done for a New Europe without islamophobia.**

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