



ThinkOut

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Working session 8: tolerance and non-discrimination

The number of islamophobic incidents in Europe are increased again. Also the religious requirements are obstructed in the social life.

A couple of months ago the European Court decided that the employers can forbid headscarf for the employees who have contact with clients on the front office, because wearing a headscarf is considered as a religious symbol.

The headscarf is NOT a religious symbol, it's a part of the religion.

If people are forced to give up some things, that can not be called equal rights or freedom, on contrary this is discrimination.

Moreover islamophobia won't increase if people see religious symbols in society. This will promote the harmonious living together.

In fact islamofobia has become the new normal.

When an architect who wears a headscarf can't find a job because she is so called not integrated, this is a problem.

When an elderly woman wearing a headscarf gets punched in the face, this is a problem.

But the biggest problem is the fact that these hate crimes don't get to the court. Either there won't be an investigation, either the investigation will be closed by lack of evidence or priority.

The priority lies in demonizing Muslims. When we hear the mayor of the city Ham in Belgium saying that his priority is not the prosecution of an exhibitionist intimidating joggers in a park but the radicalization this, we all know this is said in order to cover other political problems

ThinkOut asks OSCE to accept the crime of islamophobia. As long as the hate crimes against muslims are not recognized as islamophobic attacks, the perpetrators will never get punished.
Thank you