



**HDIM Working Session – Number 14
Wednesday, October 3, 2012
Directed to: OSCE states/ Canada**

Title: Requesting OSCE conference on Islamophobia; Call on Canadian government to disseminate new ODIHR Guidelines for Educators

In the spring of this year, Amnesty International called on European governments to do more to address discrimination and intolerance against Muslim communities, specifically in the area of employment and education where they documented clear cases of anti-Muslim attitudes and discrimination in several OSCE states

The Amnesty report, and other similar research in this field, highlights a need to convene a high-level OSCE conference to explore the phenomena of discrimination against Muslim communities in order to find solutions and work with partners to combat this challenge. We call on OSCE states to support such a conference in light of their various international commitments.

We also would like to specifically request that the Canadian government to implement programs and initiatives that would educate and encourage Canadians to report hate crimes, as it is well-documented that there are low reporting rates in Canada, as in other OSCE states though the statistics that are available paint a troubling picture

We also call on Canada, within the spirit of its Multiculturalism Act and other commitments, to support the ODIHR Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination Against Muslims.

These guidelines would provide Canadian educators with needed tools to address discrimination within the educational system, and would help promote cohesive and accepting school communities.

Our organization, CAIR-CAN, would be prepared to offer the Canadian government full support in helping to disseminate and promote these important guidelines.

Finally, we also request and offer our assistance to ODIHR to provide similar Guidelines for the Media, offering information and frameworks to counter the phenomena of stereotyping of Muslim communities that are in accordance with principals of freedom of expression, journalistic ethics and best practices.

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