



10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ISLAMOPHOBIA

5 facts

- According to the UN definition, islamophobia « refers to irrational hostility and fear toward Islam, and therefore aversion and fear toward Muslims or the majority of them. It also refers to the practical consequences of such hostility in the form of discriminations, unequal treatments toward Muslims (individuals and communities) and their exclusion from the main political and social agenda. »
- In France, a mosque is attacked or damaged every 3 weeks. A Muslim is aggressed every 3 days.
- The French state is the main cause of anti-Muslim acts: for 2009, it accounts for 41% of the violence directed at Muslim individuals.
- Islamophobia is increasing dramatically, with a growth of more than 130% from 2008 to 2009.
- 85% of the victims are women.

5 recommandations

- Include islamophobia as one of the main issues to be dealt with by governments, along with other forms of racism and discrimination.
- Establish procedures within every minister office to reinforce fair treatment of Muslim citizens and abrogate laws that are discriminatory toward Muslims or threatening their religious freedom.
- Adopt an inclusive definition of national identity, more in line with the reality and the diversity of the European people. Recognise and teach the Islamic heritage and its contribution to the European civilisation.
- Exemplar punishment for anti-Muslim acts of violence, along with a high level explanation on the application of the law.
- Allow Muslims to take part to the political, social and institutional life of the country where they live. Work with local Islamic organisation and create genuine opportunities for dialogue.

1 field organisation in France

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