



Thinkout

THINKOUT Recommendations

13 September 2018

Thinkout is a Belgian based non-governmental organisation.

Thinkout has for challenge to include, integrate and enforce the different cultures in Europe in the mainstream society while respecting the human rights.

Thinkout attended the Side Event of the meeting of OSCE on 13^h September 2018 concerning "**Civil front against anti-Muslim and anti-Migrant culture**" and made following speech and recommendation.

Thank you Mr Moderator. Good morning everyone.

I am Ayse Elkilic president of Thinkout. Thinkout is a Belgian based a nonprofit and nonpartisan think tank.

We wouldn't be here if the political system of a OSCE member state worked perfectly.

We wouldn't be here if the judicial system of a country worked perfectly. For example, if hate crimes against Muslims would effectively prosecuted and the perpetrators would brought in front of the court.

The role of politicians regarding hate crimes cannot be underestimated. Especially in the period before the elections, like now the case in Belgium, which will hold regional elections on the 14th of October.

To get electoral gain the politicians force their opinions about the topics concerning Muslims and migrants.

In the past, this Muslim rhetoric was only used by far-right parties. We noticed that other "classic political parties" who are supposed to be more democratic, use the same rhetoric to gain votes.

This will lead to normalization of racist and dangerous thoughts.

In Belgium: this normalization has led to build up a student organization with a main goal to eliminate every one of the community who doesn't fit in their perfect image of European citizen. These students defend dangerous thoughts strengthened by the normalization of political far-right and hate speeches both online and offline.

Even more, these students are also disturbing peaceful demonstrations about the ongoing negative policy against refugees in Belgium.

That's why it is important and crucial that we form a civil front against anti-Muslim and anti-migrant climate.

The current political climate shows symptoms with negative effects. We have seen in Europol's latest terror report that right-wing and left-wing separatist terror is on the rise. These terrorist groups have committed the most crimes in 2017. But due to the reports, people would rather think that it would be Muslim terror.

We have to stand up against the minimalization of racism, otherwise this will cause more hate leading to certain dangerous groups of units like students who express their hate against Muslims, Jews, women, migrants and so on.

The goal of these dangerous groups is to disconnect the community in order to accept their radical vision and if necessary with the use of violence.

No one has a profit of hearing "doom" scenarios about possible invasions of migrants taking their land, taking their jobs and their European values.

Thinkout's recommends the following:

- we need to form a civil front to cooperate with all stakeholders and fractions, instead of searching confrontation.

- People need to reflect about the negative evolution to an anti-Muslim and anti-migrant culture.
- Focus on preventive laws and real prosecutions, instead of remedial action.

Thank you.

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