

Agenda

Welcoming and Chairing the Round Table:

Veysel FILIZ
Spokesperson of EMISCO

Bashy QURASHY
Secretary General of EMISCO

Experts :

Yasser LOUATI
President of Justice and Liberties for All Committee (France)

Bengi ALP
Researcher - EMISCO representative in Germany

Çelebi DURSUN
Politician (Turkey)

Muhammad RABBANI
International Director of CAGE (UK)

Dr Jean-Marie HEYDT
Honorary President of the Conference of INGO's of the Council of Europe

Exchange with the audience

Conclusions :

Professor Bülent ŞENAY
OSCE Former Representative on Combating Islamophobia



OSCE / ODIHR

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2019

SIDE-EVENT

Vulnerable Groups and Hate Crimes

Tuesday, 24th September 2019

Warsaw National Stadium (PGE Narodowy)
Aleja Poniatowskiego 1, GATE 1, 2nd floor—Warsaw

13:15 - 14:45

In partnership with:



Working language: English
Refreshments will be provided

Vulnerable Groups and Hate Crimes

Since 2001, many Muslim NGOs, including EMISCO are working closely with ODIHR on the issue of hate crime, through providing inputs for its annual hate crime report and participating in its training and other public events.

This helped to raise awareness of hate crime among Muslim activities and community leaders and even resulted in the initiation of some concrete activities which gave more visibility to the phenomenon of anti-Muslim hate crimes across Europe

However, while Muslim NGOs like EMICO appreciated such efforts, that created visibility to this phenomenon, organizations also warned decision makers to avoid certain misconceptions that are being used in decision making process.

EMISCO would like to point out that:

Anti-Muslim hate crimes are, not only those offences, which involve extensive use of violence, but also acts of verbal and physical harassment in public places, threats at work place, in neighborhoods and through public hate graffiti.

Anti-Muslim hate crimes are not only committed by the far right extremists but also the profile of perpetrators indicate that those who target Muslim communities come from all segments of the society, including those supporting mainstream parties on the left as well as the right.

Hate crimes against Muslims do not only affect Muslims but also people who because of their appearance look like Muslims, e.g. Sikhs but also non-Muslims who are affiliated with Muslims, because they defend the rights of Muslims or they are married with Muslims people.

There is a need to create data collection mechanisms, taking into account mixed motivations. Racism and xenophobia is a dynamic phenomenon. Before, it targeted people because of their ethnic origin but now people are targeted because of their culture, nationality and especially because of religion.

There is a specific need to collect data of anti-Muslim hate crimes because these have huge disproportional impact on Muslim women and Islamic places of worship. As most Muslims do not have trust in law enforcement officers, they rarely report such incidents.

Taking into account all these challenges, it would be highly advisable for European Institutions to produce a survey on Muslim communities' experience of hate crime, similar to the ones done for Jewish communities and LGBTs.

Such a survey should also deal with the fact that Islamophobia is mainstreamed in public discourse. That's why the efforts only focusing on Cyber hate would not respond to the security needs of Muslims. One does not need to go to the Internet to find hate speech against Muslims, there is already enough in mainstream politics and popular newspapers and TV channels.

EMISCO strongly encourages participating States to draw on ODIHR's expertise in combating hate crimes and developing educational programs to counter stereotypes. ODIHR has provided training seminars for NGOs on hate crimes against Muslims in a number of countries, including Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany and Spain. ODIHR has also organized several regional roundtable meetings for government officials, experts and civil society representative to promote the Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance against Muslims and collect recommendations from participants. EMISCO wishes to see the implementation of these recommendations.

Last but not least, intolerance and discrimination against Muslims have devastating affects not only on the daily lives of members of Muslim communities, but also on society as a whole and relations between countries, leading to tensions and undermining our democratic values. We can overcome this challenge, only if we work together, with a commitment to protect and promote human rights for everybody.