

2024 Anti-Islamophobia Conference Summary Report

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Introduction

In September 2024 transnational collectives and organisations led by Muslims and racialised groups met to network and dialogue together on how we can organise to address Islamophobia. The conference was funded and co-organised by Friedrech-Ebert-Stiftung London.

The one-day conference was an important opportunity for organisations and individuals to meet and build connections across borders. More such collaboration and deeper work is needed to develop consistent and impactful long term action on the issue.

Experiences of addressing Islamophobia in the UK, Germany, France, Belgium and across Europe were shared. Focused discussions on strategy in relation to political parties and elected officials; trade unions; and civil society organising took place. The following recommendations for action were suggested as top priorities by participants.

Priority demands for EU and national governments

- Officially recognise a legal definition of Islamophobia as a type of racism and a form of discrimination.
- Recognise gendered Islamophobia and violence against Muslim women as a category of violence against women and girls.
- Officially recognise structural and institutional Islamophobia and develop with Muslim-led representative groups action plans to tackle it, obliging public institutions to implement these action plans.
- Deal with incidents of hate towards Muslims in line with other hate crimes against other races and religions and beliefs. For example, funding and resources allocated to Islamophobia should at least match that provided for antisemitism, in proportion with population and hate crime statistics.
- Challenge Islamophobic political and media culture; politicians and media outlets that incite hate or hateful speech or harmful stereotypes towards Muslims should be sanctioned.
- End the scapegoating of Muslims and migrants for poverty and inequality caused by austerity, neoliberalism and capitalism.
- End Islamophobic 'War on Terror' discourse and foreign political and military intervention, including ending the financing and provision of weapons to regimes engaged in human rights abuses such as Israel, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and others.
- Increase spending on welfare and public services.

As well as the above, specific recommendations include:

EU

- The National Action Plans Against Racism (NAPARs) should always contain measures against Islamophobia and their implementation should become mandatory

UK

- Develop and take the recommendations of the Leveson inquiry on Islamophobic reporting of Muslims
- Abolish Prevent and commission an independent inquiry into the Prevent programme
- Develop a muslim-community led response to the fascist riots that took place in August 2024

France

- Change the definition of “laïcité” so that it can no longer be used as a means to discriminate against Muslims.
- Repeal the 2004 law and the “séparatisme” law.
- Ensure freedom of belief, bodily autonomy and expression for all, for example authorising the wearing of the hijab in sports, during public and private employment and in public spaces.
- Define and quantify different forms of structural racism that are not mentioned in the latest FRA report.

Civil Society Action Points

Civil society groups should increase coordination and collaboration by:

- Meeting regularly: such conferences should occur as a series not a one-off event. A second meeting in early 2025 has been suggested to explore context specific policy development and application in combatting Islamophobia
- Agreeing 3 top priorities for addressing Islamophobia
- Coordinating across Europe to expose major Islamophobic policies and anti-Muslim persecution of countries like France, Austria etc. (through media, advocacy, etc.)
- Creating an infrastructure/space for regular cross communication amongst civil society groups for sharing of best practice etc.
- Producing a collection of reporting across Europe on racial violence against Muslims and the patterns and trends we are seeing.
- Share resources (financial, human, material, legal) that can support each others efforts
- Use social media to amplify and share each others actions as much as possible
- Collaboration across higher education institutions in the UK and beyond to explore legislation that gives way to Islamophobia.

Actions and best practices civil society can take include:

- Drafting and signing a transnational declaration demanding immediate action against Islamophobia
- National campaigns based on the structural racism faced by Muslims - with the aim of eliminating the exploitation and poverty that impacts Muslim communities.
- Political education of Muslim communities to understand islamophobia the rise in the far right and what actions can we take.
- More advocacy towards EU institutions, for instance request Marion Lalissee to exchange with CSOs fighting Islamophobia, if she refuses file a complaint at the EC.

- Development of datasets and platforms to correctly document instances of Islamophobia
- Addressing institutional Islamophobia
- Highlight the connection between capitalism and inequality.
- Not relying on the same voices to frequently speak on behalf of Muslims i.e. not always cis, able-bodied men.
- Work closer with trade unions, even if they are faith-based as long as they take a workers-centred approach.
- Call out Islamophobia wherever it occurs
- Speak out against Islamophobia even when not directly concerned

Resources

- [Social media video from conference on Islamophobia](#) - to be posted on or after 1 November
- [Runnymede Trust report on Islamophobia \(to be launched 18 November\)](#)
- [Muslims against fascism allyship guide](#)
- [Prevent Watch – Supporting people impacted by the Prevent Duty](#) - website as a resource for those in the UK who find themselves referred, threatened with referral or under pressure to make a Prevent referral based on discriminatory ideas about Muslims/Islam.
- [Institutional Islamophobia at London School of Economics - June 2024 Report](#)
- Podcast: As part of the thematic focus on "Discrimination & racism" Isabell Diekmann (moderator) and Zeynep Demir (guest) talk in this episode "Seeing through the eyes of those affected: Anti-Muslim Racism in Germany" about the effects of anti-Muslim racism and hostility on the well-being and health of Muslims. You can find the episode on :
 - [Spotify](#)
 - [Deezer](#)
 - [Apple Podcasts](#)
 - [Podcast.de](#)
 - [Wissenschaftspodcasts](#)
- Read Another Europe's 2023 report on [Uniting Europe Against Islamophobia here](#). We've also published reports on Islamophobia in [France](#) & Islamophobia and the rise of the far right in [Germany & the UK](#).
- Watch Another Europe's public event on [Brexit & Islamophobia](#).
- Listen to the [Democracy in Question](#) podcast about Islamophobia across Europe.
- [Plain English Campaign](#) for accessible text in English

