



DDCP-YD/NHSM-Islamophobia (2014) 2

Budapest, 15 September 2014



Seminar

Educational Responses to Islamophobia, Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims in Europe

European Youth Centre Budapest, 17-19 September 2014

SUMMARY REPORT

RATIONALE OF THE SEMINAR

The Council of Europe, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) have a rich history of work on the topic of Islamophobia and hate speech. The most recent endeavour taken by these three institutions was the development and publication of the ‘Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims. Addressing Islamophobia through Education.’ The guidelines reaffirm the commitment to counter such manifestations within our societies, and to empower and support educators worldwide in taking effective action to address the roots of such manifestations.

The seminar “Educational responses to Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims” was realised in cooperation with OSCE ODIHR and the Education Department of the Council of Europe within the framework of the No Hate Speech Movement. The seminar was based on the approaches of the Guidelines and realised in connection with the European Action Day against Islamophobia (21 September 2014). It also took into account the recommendations and discussions of a seminar realised in 2004 by the Youth Department entitled “Islamophobia and its consequences on young people”.

The seminar was prepared with a team which included Youssef Himmat for the Advisory Council on Youth and Rolf Gollob, expert with the Education Department. Unfortunately, none of them was able to attend the seminar.

AIMS OF THE SEMINAR

The seminar explored the realities of Islamophobia today and its expression through online hate speech and explore the role of education in combating it and promoting religious tolerance and understanding.

PROGRAMME

The 2½ day programme of the seminar featured expert input on Islamophobia, its root causes, manifestations and consequences on young people and societies in Europe nowadays, working groups on experiences of Islamophobia, introduction to the Guidelines approaches and human rights education workshops. It also focused on ensuring time and space for participants to network, share good practices and approaches to education and supported the development of concrete proposals for follow-up.

The seminar was livestreamed on the Youtube channel of the No Hate Speech Movement. An overview of the seminar programme and recordings can be found [here](#).

PARTICIPANTS

The seminar received a high interest from youth and human rights organisations, as well as from educators and journalists. A high number of applications was received (498 applications) which highlights the importance of the topic.

The final composition of the group featured youth organisations involved in human rights education, Muslim organisations, online activists and members of national campaign committees and human rights organisations as well as trainers, teachers and teacher trainers giving the group a very interesting mix of experience and practice.

EVALUATION

The participants evaluated the seminar very positively and appreciated the chance to be further familiarised with the Guidelines and, as well, the approaches and methods of the No Hate Speech Movement campaign.

They have been involved in the preparations for the 21 September Action Day and have expressed willingness and motivation to further up work on the topic together with the two main organisers.

CONCLUSION AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE SEMINAR

The seminar participants recommended the two institutions to continue work of in three areas:

1. Educational initiatives to counter intolerance and discrimination against Muslims

- 1.1. Develop a companion to Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims (the Guidelines), published by ODIHR, the Council of Europe and UNESCO, by using more practical and visually appealing materials, such as lesson plans, pictures, graphics, facts, role-plays and classroom exercises. This companion can build on the experience of the online platform of the NHSM and can make also use of the platform.
- 1.2. Design and implement pre-service and in-service training modules and programmes for educational policy-makers, administrators and teachers on how to reduce anti-Muslim prejudice and discrimination, within the general framework of anti-racism and human rights education initiatives;

2. No Hate Speech Movement

- 2.1. Produce user-friendly and concise publications, such as brochures, leaflets and fact sheets, both online and in printed format, in order to raise awareness of anti-Muslim stereotypes among young people;
- 2.2. Organize training activities for/about the media on anti-Muslim prejudice and discrimination, within the framework of "No Hate Speech Movement";
- 2.3. Consider issuing joint statements by the Council of Europe, ODIHR and UNESCO, on future anti-Islamophobia days on 21 September, in a manner which will increase the visibility of the three institutions in this area and continue to give the necessary visibility to the topic.

3. capacity-building and networking

- 3.1. Create cross-border networking opportunities for young people and teachers, with the view of sharing information on their efforts to counter Islamophobia and promote mutual understanding;
- 3.2. Continue working with UNESCO in the area of anti-Islamophobia education, by using its networks and existing programmes in order to reach out all relevant educational authorities, professional associations and teacher training institutions.

Participants

Country	Name	Organisation
Armenia	Hasmik Khachatryan	Youth Events Holding Centre
Belgium	Ibrahim Akrouh	The European Wergeland Centre
	Hajib El Hajjaji	Collectif Contre l'Islamophobie en Belgique (CCIB)
	Khaddija Haourigui	CCIB Collectif contre l'Islamophobie en Belgique
Bulgaria	Mariya Angelova	Municipality of Plovdiv
	Nikolina Filipova	National Radio of Bulgaria / Internet Radio Binar
Cyprus	Katerina Gavrielidou	Office of the Commissioner for Volunteering and NGOs
France	Nassima Chariet	AFEV
Germany	Kevser Erol	FEMYSOM and IGMG
Greece	Aikaterini Komita	Greek Council for Refugees
Ireland	Kate O'Connell	Canal Communities Regional Youth Service
Italy	Georgina Turner	EPA
	William Turner	EPA
Kosovo ¹	Dastida Hajdari	YMCA Kosovo
The Netherlands	Merel Hollander	
Norway	Zakia Akkouch	The European Wergeland Centre
	Yousef Bartho Assidiq	Minotenk - Minority Political Think Tank
Russian Federation	Anastasia Khodakova	Tula English Language Teachers' Association (TUELTA)
	Vladimir Nikishin	All-Russian social movement 'All-Russian interethnic union of youth'
Serbia	Amina Semsovic	
Spain	Martin Ruiz Francisco	Islamic Culture Foundation (Fundación de Cultura Islámica)
Switzerland	Akoe Akossiawa Sallah	CO-HABITER
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Dean Iliev	University 'St. Kliment Ohridski' Bitola, Faculty of Education
Turkey	Mustafa Gundogdu	Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey
United Kingdom	Esmá Basbaydar	UNITED EUROPEAN TURKISH DEMOCRATS
	Timothy Ford	UNITED for Intercultural Action
	Farrah Sheikh	Jawaab
	Jasmine Zine	Lecturer
	Cristina Mancigotti	Online facilitator
	Soykan Tankut	Rapporteur
	Azra Juzunovic	OSCE – ODIHR
	Marouane <u>Mohammed</u>	OSCE – ODIHR
	Zsuzsanna Molnar	Council of Europe, Youth Department
	Ruxandra Pandea	Council of Europe, Youth Department
	Rui Gomes	Council of Europe, Youth Department

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council [Resolution 1244](#) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.