

## ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH (CCJ)

21 September 2025

*English only*

### Statement – European Action Day Against Islamophobia (EADAI)

On the occasion of the European Action Day Against Islamophobia, the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) of the Council of Europe reaffirms its solidarity with Muslim communities across Europe, and in particular with young people, who continue to encounter disproportionate levels of discrimination and exclusion. This commemoration provides an important opportunity to reflect upon the persistent challenges posed by anti-Muslim hatred and to reaffirm the shared values of dignity, equality, and respect for human rights, which are core values of a united and democratic Europe.

Recent findings, including the Being Muslim in the EU report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, demonstrate that Muslim youth remain especially vulnerable to acts of discrimination in education, employment, and public life.<sup>1</sup> On this occasion of the European Action Day Against Islamophobia, the Advisory Council would like to lay a particular focus on Muslim youths' access to the labour market. While youths' transition into employment remains a challenging transition for young people in Europe overall, the report particularly highlights that the employment rates of Muslim youth remain below the EU average, and overall, one-third of employed Muslims work in positions below their skill level, limiting upward mobility. When looking at the intersection between gendered discrimination and islamophobia, the report finds that young Muslim women aged 16–24 wearing religious markers are among the most disadvantaged, with more than half reporting discrimination when trying to find work. These experiences of discrimination, often compounded by stereotyping in political and media narratives, can undermine the sense of belonging and actively prevent the access of Muslim youth to society.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in its Resolution “Raising awareness of and countering Islamophobia, or anti-Muslim racism, in Europe” (Doc. 15616), has recognised that Islamophobia constitutes a form of discrimination which intersects with broader patterns of xenophobia, racism, and inequality. It further notes that Muslim youth are frequently confronted with multiple and overlapping forms of bias, linked not only to religion but also to gender, ethnicity, and visible markers of religious identity. These biases against Muslim youth have become increasingly visible in European civic spaces, whether towards individuals or Muslim youth organisations, harming their ability to engage in participatory spaces meaningfully.

In this context, the Advisory Council on Youth recalls the importance of coherent policies and sustained efforts, consistent with the guidance of Doc. 15616, to promote awareness, education, and dialogue. Such measures include the incorporation of accurate and diverse perspectives in educational curricula, the training of professionals to identify and counter manifestations of anti-Muslim racism, the collection of reliable data to better understand its prevalence, and the promotion of balanced and respectful public discourse.

The Council of Europe has long played a leading role in addressing hate and intolerance, including through Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 on Combating Hate Speech and Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)4 on Combating Hate Crime. The Advisory Council on Youth expresses its readiness to

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<sup>1</sup> [https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2024-being-muslim-in-the-eu\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2024-being-muslim-in-the-eu_en.pdf)

contribute to these ongoing efforts, in close cooperation with Member States and civil society, to ensure that young people of Muslim faith can learn, participate, and thrive in safe and inclusive environments.

On this European Action Day Against Islamophobia, the Advisory Council repeats its commitment to advancing youth rights, strengthening social cohesion, and promoting mutual understanding. In doing so, it recalls that the protection of diversity and the rejection of discrimination are essential to the preservation of democratic and fruitful societies.

*The statements of the Advisory Council are published for the purpose of informing the public about the activities of the statutory bodies of the Council of Europe youth sector. The statements reflect the opinions and positions of the Advisory Council and its members. The views expressed therein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Council of Europe.*