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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[27 May 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Muslims in the European Union

Immigrant Muslims in Western countries face many discriminations and double attitudes. This has caused deep concern for Muslim communities and human rights defenders.

There are many cases of double attitudes of Muslim immigrants in the West, including Islamophobia, religious restrictions and lack of equal opportunities. Muslims are often discriminated against, harassed and violent because of their religion, they are portrayed as terrorists, misogynists and backward, they face restrictions and often obstacles in freely expressing their religion, such as wearing a hijab or building a mosque. They are faced with access to education, employment and proper housing, and these are all examples of the pressure and threat of Muslims who constitute a large population of the world, which has caused deep concern for the international community.

These dual behaviors have several negative consequences for Muslim immigrants: Muslim immigrants may feel out of place and unwelcome in Western society. Also, discrimination and harassment can lead to mental health problems such as anxiety and depression in Muslim immigrants, and some Muslim immigrants may turn to extremism and violence in response to double-dealing.

To condemn such actions, increase public awareness about Islam and Muslims to eliminate stereotypes and prejudices, guarantee equal rights for all people, regardless of their religion or ethnicity, enforce stronger laws to deal with hate crimes and discrimination and creating a space for open and respectful dialogue between Muslims and non-Muslims is necessary to counter the double behavior of Muslim immigrants.

In recent years, Muslims have been subjected to a wide range of hate speech, racism and discrimination based on religion. Consequently, the terrorist operations against Muslims have remarkably and unprecedentedly surged in Europe. The sharp rise in anti-Muslim attacks across various European countries is mainly due to the legitimized discrimination in European countries' local laws, as well as the rise of far-right parties in Europe.

In our opinion, combating the double behavior of immigrant Muslims is a shared responsibility that requires the continuous efforts of all members of society. Governments, civil society organizations, religious leaders and ordinary people can all play a role in creating a more just and inclusive society for all people, regardless of their religion or background.

By criticizing the approach of Western countries towards human rights issues, we have assessed such a policy as only causing division and confrontation between countries and degrading human rights to a tool for political purposes, and we believe that we should all work to create a fairer and more inclusive society for all people. Let's play a role according to their religion or background.

Conclusion

Therefore, we request:

- the special rapporteur to directly meet and talk with government officials, representatives of civil society and Muslim immigrants to investigate the situation of Muslim immigrants, document his findings on the situation of Muslim immigrants around the world, and make practical recommendations to governments to eliminate rights violations. Muslim immigrants and commitment to international human rights standards.
- Reducing hate speech requires the Special Rapporteur to indicate in his report the criminalization of offending any Abrahamic religion, just as anti-Semitism was criminalized earlier, by enacting the necessary laws in this context.
- For countering hate speech, it is necessary to expand areas of cooperation between different European countries and between civil society organizations; in order to enhance the comprehensive spaces for exchange and dialogue as a basic tributary in combating hate crimes and speeches.

- Amending laws or legislations that discriminate against minorities, especially Muslims in Europe, consolidating the principles of peace and interfaith dialogue in educational curricula, changing the stereotypes about Muslims, not selecting a specific belief and stigmatizing it with terrorism and violence.
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