

Dear Commissioner Helena Dalli,  
Dear Commissioner Ylva Johansson,  
Dear Commissioner Didier Reynders,

**Subject: The European Commission needs to renew its political commitment to fight against islamophobia in Europe and clarify the mandate of the Coordinator on combating anti-Muslim Hatred and its relation with civil society**

**We, the signatories, anti-racist and human rights organisations, Muslim and non-Muslim,—would like to express concerns over the sudden departure of the Coordinator on combating anti-Muslim Hatred and what it entails for the future of the EU work on this issue. We therefore call for a renewed and strengthened commitment from European Commission's and Commissioners on combating Islamophobia in Europe and close collaboration with civil society organisations.**

The Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated violence and discrimination against Muslims and those perceived as such. In a context of increasing restrictions to fundamental rights and shrinking civic space, there has been a particular increase of criminalisation of Muslim civil society organisations, activists, including via administrative measures hampering their activities and intimidating them. Attacks against Muslims, including by institutions, have reached a worrying level of concern, with little public condemnation from the European Commission and other EU institutions. For example, in Austria, a government-affiliated Documentation Center for Political Islam publicly launched an "Islam map" which was made available on a website with the names and locations of more than 620 mosques, organisations and officials. In France, attacks on freedom of association and expression have targeted civil society. For example, the human rights organisation, Collectif Contre l'Islamophobie en France, was dissolved by the government for unfounded reasons.

The coordinator has facilitated networking between CSOs, access to European institutions and EU funds. He led the organisations of several events to raise-awareness of the issue and provided support to organisations.

The publication of the new EU anti-racism action plan and the appointment of an EU anti-racism coordinator is encouraging and will support tackling anti-muslim hatred in a more consistent and strategic way. However, we have also witnessed the impact of the lack of resources and of the nature of a position without political voice. To address this and to secure meaningful resources, we ask the European Commission **to appoint a full time Coordinator on anti-Muslim hatred working closely with the EU anti-racism coordinator** in order to ensure a smooth transition with the current anti-Muslim hatred coordinator and enable civil society organisations to continue their collaboration with the European Commission. **This person should be appointed based on relevant skills, with strong expertise on the issue of islamophobia and good knowledge of civil society in this field.**

In order to secure this commitment and have the possibility to exchange about urgent priorities in the EU on the issue, **we would like to request a formal meeting with Commissioners Helena Dalli, Ylva Johansson and Didier Reynders.** Considering the situation for Muslims and those perceived as such in Europe, the European Commission needs to show political leadership and not leave a gap in its actions on this issue.

Signatories:

Action Droits des Musulmans (ADM)

Anti-Racist Forum ry

ANTIGONE - Information and Documentation on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non Violence

Asociación Musulmana por los Derechos Humanos

Centre for Muslims' Rights in Denmark - CEDA

Centre for Peace Studies

Claim - Alliance against anti-Muslim racism

Collective against Islamophobia in Belgium (CCIB)

Czech Helsinki Committee

Documentation and Counselling Center Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Racism - Dokustelle  
Austria

Equinox - Initiative for Racial Justice

European Forum of Muslim Women (EFOMW)

European Network against Racism (ENAR)

European Network on Religion and Belief (ENORB)

Fair Trials

Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO)

Fundación Al Fanar

Greek Forum of Migrants

India ki Rasta Foundation

Institute Circle

LALLAB

Maruf

Migrant Tales

Regional Roma Educational Youth Association - RROMA

Roma Women Network in Moldova Moldsolidaritate

S.P.E.A.K.

Trans United Europe/BPOC EU Trans Network