



PRESS STATEMENT

Brussels, 3 December 2018 – Today, the European Commission put anti-Muslim hatred on the agenda by organising a high-level conference on the issue. The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) calls on European decision makers to ...

There has been increasing recognition and commitment at the European Union level to combating racism against Muslim people in Europe. This political commitment must now lead to concrete recommendations for actions to EU member states.

The current political context makes this all the more urgent. In several EU countries, islamophobic discourses are being used by government representatives and are shaping the way laws and policies are being developed and adopted, but also practices.

Amel Yacef, Chair of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) said: *“This meeting is an important step towards tangible actions to combat Islamophobia. We now expect EU policy makers to keep this issue high on their agenda. Especially at a time when parties using blatant islamophobic rhetoric have come to power in a number of EU countries, they need to send a clear signal that they are committed to ensuring equality and inclusion for all members of society.”*

EU Member States must tackle the structural manifestations of anti-Muslim hatred by adopting national policies against racism which include specific measures to counter Islamophobia, including intersectional discrimination targeting Muslim women. EU decision makers should also ensure that counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation measures are not discriminatory and respect fundamental rights.

We also call on the European Commission and Member States to enable organisations working against Islamophobia to do their work without being delegitimized and having their resources and integrity threatened, as has been the case for several organisations. This not only prevents them from empowering communities and holding governments accountable but also contributes to the generalised suspicion towards Muslims in Europe.

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Notes to the editor:

1. The European Network Against Racism (ENAR aisbl) stands against racism and discrimination and advocates equality and solidarity for all in Europe. We connect local and national anti-racist NGOs throughout Europe and voice the concerns of ethnic and religious minorities in European and national policy debates.