



OIC/ACM-2019/CG-EUROPE/REP/FINAL

REPORT
OF THE OIC CONTACT GROUP
ON MUSLIMS IN EUROPE
ON THE SIDELINES OF THE
ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
23 SEPTEMBER 2019

**REPORT OF THE CONTACT GROUP ON MUSLIMS IN EUROPE
NEW YORK, 23 SEPTEMBER 2019**

1. The Contact Group on Muslims in Europe of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held its meeting on the sidelines of the Annual Coordination Meeting on 23 September 2019 in New York, USA, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency the Secretary General Dr Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen.
2. Statements were heard from the OIC Secretary General and members of the OIC Contact Group.
3. The Meeting reviewed the conditions of Muslims in Europe since the last meeting of the Contact Group and reiterated support for the Muslim community, with full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of European nations.
4. The Meeting called for the OIC and its Member States to continue to maintain close interest in the conditions of Muslims in Europe.
5. The Meeting called upon all Governments to respect the freedom of religion of all Muslims; not restrict the fundamental human rights and freedoms of Muslims, including in particular the right to exercise their civil and cultural rights.
6. The Meeting expressed concern at the rising anti-Muslim sentiment, Islamophobia, and right-wing extremism in Europe and called upon the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an observatory to monitor acts of religious hatred, hostility and violence against Muslims and report to the relevant policy organs;
7. The Meeting firmly rejected all presumptions of guilt or attributions of potential crimes, extremism and terrorism to ordinary Muslims, who sincerely adhere to, express and follow the basic requirements of Islamic tenets and teachings.
8. The Meeting called upon all Governments to fully implement the existing domestic legal and administrative framework and/or adapt new legislation if needed in consistence with their obligations under international law, norms and standards; to take serious and effective measures to promote inter-faith dialogue, tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, particularly through education, media and civil society, to protect all individuals and communities against hate and violence based on religion and faith; and to ensure the protection of places of worship.
9. The Meeting reiterated the call upon the Islamic Summit Chair, Council of Foreign Ministers Chair and Secretary General to maintain close contact with the United Nations, Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, European Union, Council of Europe, as well as the governments of countries that have Muslim peoples, minorities and communities as needed to establish a positive and constructive dialogue in order to devise ways and means that contribute

to intercultural harmony, to enhance mutual understanding, respect and tolerance in line with the Final Communiqué of the Open Ended Emergency Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee held at the level of Foreign Ministers Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, 22 March 2019.

10. The meeting also reiterated the principled position of the OIC to condemn extremism, terrorism and all forms of violence, which threatens the peace, security, and stability in the countries in Europe.
11. The Meeting commended the Secretary General for engaging in dialogue with the European Union, and other international organizations, political leaders and civil society to raise awareness over the dangers of Islamophobia.
12. The Meeting requested the Secretary General to continue his initiatives and engagements with international actors, organizations and institutions to raise global awareness on the affliction of Islamophobia and hatred and intolerance against Muslims and to effectively counter the phenomenon in coordination with national and international organizations; and reaffirmed the need to coordinate and cooperate with all international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, as well as with civil societies.
13. The Meeting requested the Member States, OIC financial institutions, particularly the IDB, and other OIC institutions to provide the necessary assistance for development of programs for Muslims in Europe, particularly for the youth.
14. The Meeting welcomed the positive steps taken by the Secretary General with OIC offices in Brussels and Geneva to engage with Muslims in Europe and urged all parties to intensify their efforts in this regard.
15. The Meeting invited Member States within the framework of their bilateral cooperation with European countries to raise the challenges facing Muslims in Europe.
16. The Meeting called upon institutions such as ISESCO and IRCICA to take necessary measures to identify, preserve and protect the Islamic cultural heritage of Muslims in Europe.
17. The Meeting called on Muslim community leaders in Europe to intensify efforts to engage with Muslim youth and promote peace, tolerance and inclusivity and harmony.
