



Outcome paper of the 2026 Coordination meeting on combatting anti-Muslim hatred/racism held on 18-19 May 2026

On 18 and 19 May 2026, the European Commission organised the 2026 **Coordination Meeting on Combatting Anti-Muslim Hatred/Racism** which brought together Coordinators, Special Representatives, Envoys and Ambassadors on Combatting Anti-Muslim Hatred/Racism and Discrimination, government representatives, international organisations and civil society to exchange experiences, good practices, and policy approaches to address anti-Muslim hatred and racism across Europe.

The event took place in the context of the deadly **attack on a mosque in San Diego** on 18 May. Against the backdrop of rising incidents of anti-Muslim hatred/racism, hate speech in online environments, the meeting focused on ongoing challenges as well as efforts to strengthen cooperation, evidence-based policymaking and inclusive responses. The meeting acknowledged **increasing efforts** undertaken by states, EU institutions and other stakeholders in recent years to address anti-Muslim hatred and discrimination across Europe. Specific emphasis was put on the **role of youth** in the fight against anti-Muslim hatred.

Main observations and discussions

Discussions highlighted the **growing impact of anti-Muslim hatred and racism across both offline and online** environments. Participants exchanged experiences regarding the increasing normalisation of discriminatory narratives, including in digital spaces where hate speech, misinformation and AI-driven amplification contribute to the rapid dissemination of harmful content, particularly during periods of political tension, crises or following terrorist attacks. Participants stressed that a substantial body of evidence on anti-Muslim discrimination already exists and future efforts should focus more on **strengthening enforcement and concrete actions** to tackle the problem, in addition to further documenting the phenomenon.

Participants underlined the importance of ensuring that **digital environments remain safe spaces for democratic participation** and empowerment. The **ambivalent role of social media in the context of anti-Muslim hatred and racism** was also highlighted. On



the one hand, online platforms can accelerate the spread of hate speech, stereotypes, and polarising narratives. Participants shared experiences when individuals and organisations that promote counter-narratives or share positive stories become targets of online harassment and hate speech themselves. On the other hand, **social media was also recognised as an important tool for visibility, empowerment**, awareness-raising, and community-building – specifically for young people. With the participation of several artists and content creators at the meeting, participants highlighted the added value of digital activism and storytelling in challenging discrimination and promoting dialogue.

Parts of the discussions focused on the role of sports, arts and community-based initiatives in fostering inclusion and reducing prejudice. Shared experiences **in cultural and social activities were described as important opportunities for strengthening mutual understanding, creating positive identification**, and building social cohesion across communities. Discussions also highlighted the role of Muslim artists, athletes, and cultural actors in challenging stereotypes and opening spaces for visibility, expression and dialogue.

Persistent challenges related to equal opportunities in the labor market were also discussed. Empirical evidence and lived experiences pointed to ongoing **discrimination in recruitment, career progression, and workplace environments** across several Member States. Participants noted that such discrimination often intersects with factors such as religion, race, ethnicity, gender, age, socio-economic background, or visible religious expression, while remaining difficult to measure and address effectively.

Discussions also underlined the importance of continuing efforts to develop a **clear shared definition for understanding of anti-Muslim racism**, while addressing it explicitly within broader discussions on racism, equality, and fundamental rights.

The event highlighted the **crucial contribution of civil society organisations**, including Muslim-led organisations and anti-racism actors, in monitoring discrimination, supporting affected individuals, strengthening participation, especially of young Muslims and promoting social cohesion. Participants presented concrete examples of successful initiatives funded by states, EU or international organisations. However, several participants raised concerns regarding **shrinking civic spaces and the limited**



availability of sustainable funding for long-term prevention work and community engagement.

Recommendations

- Improve data collection and the evidence base on anti-Muslim racism, including in online environments and with regard to intersectional forms of discrimination;
- Continue efforts towards developing a shared understanding and working definition of anti-Muslim racism and discrimination;
- Invest in long-term and sustainable support for civil society organisations, including Muslim-led organisations and youth initiatives, particularly in the areas of prevention, victim support and community engagement;
- Strengthen efforts to address online hate speech, misinformation, and AI-driven amplification through platform accountability and digital literacy;
- Support inclusive approaches that strengthen participation, representation and equal opportunities, particularly for young people affected by discrimination;
- Promote cross-sectoral and European cooperation, recognising anti-Muslim hatred as part of a global challenge requiring coordinated long-term responses.

Overall, the meeting reaffirmed that anti-Muslim hatred is part of a broader global challenge affecting democratic societies across different contexts. Participants emphasised that there can be **no hierarchy in human rights and no hierarchy in efforts to combat racism and discrimination**. Addressing anti-Muslim hatred is therefore not only about protecting affected communities, but also about upholding the fundamental values of the European Union, including equality, human dignity, and fundamental rights for all.

Press release:

[Press release - Coordination Meeting on Young people are key actors in fighting anti-Muslim hatred and in building resilient societies | European Commission](#)

Website of the Coordinator:

[Combating anti-Muslim hatred - European Commission](#)