ENAR Symposium
Muslim women, forgotten women?
Understanding the gender dimension of Islamophobia

26 May 2016 - Royal Belgian Library, Brussels

On 26 May 2016 in Brussels, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) will present the results of a two-year project on the multiple discrimination affecting Muslim women in eight EU countries: France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, The Netherlands and Belgium. This all-day event will be the first ever EU symposium to specifically address intersection between racism and sexism and its impact on Muslim women.

The symposium aims to launch ENAR’s report on the impact of islamophobia on Muslim women, provide in-depth analysis to improve the implementation of EU equality and non-discrimination legislation and develop alliances between Muslim and women’s rights movements.

Panel discussions will bring together experts, academics, civil society organisations, EU institutions and representatives from equality bodies and Member States. They will explore how to have an intersectional approach to discrimination and hate crime to better protect Muslim women. Interactive workshops will aim to: disseminate good practice; build alliances and strategies; and develop recommendations.

Facilitator: Samia Hathroubi, European Director, Foundation for Ethnic Understanding

9.00 Arrival and welcome coffee

9.15 Introductory remarks
Sarah Isal, Chair, ENAR
Soraya Post, Member of the European Parliament (Sweden, S&D)

9.30 Keynote speech - Normalisation of Islamophobia
John L. Esposito, University Professor, Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., USA

9.45 Keynote speech - The sexist dimension of Islamophobia: the construction of the image of the “Muslim woman”
Malika Hamidi, PhD in sociology, Director-General of the think tank European Muslim Network, Brussels

10.15-11.45 Thematic interactive panel 1: Discrimination of Muslim women in employment
Presentation of ENAR research’s findings by Julie Pascoet, Senior Advocacy Officer, ENAR

Discussion – Non-discrimination legislation and practice: how to have an intersectional approach. Moderated by Julie Pascoet, Senior Advocacy Officer, ENAR

• Dagmar Schiek, Professor of European Law and Comparative Law, Queen's
University of Belfast, UK
• **Saila Ouald Chaib**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Human Rights Centre, Ghent University, Belgium
• **Frédérique Ast**, Senior Legal Officer, Defender of Rights (Ombudsman), France
• **Álvaro Oliveira**, Legal officer, Unit Equality Legislation, Directorate-General Justice, European Commission
• **Marco Perolini**, Researcher on Discrimination in Europe, Amnesty International, London, UK

11.45-12.00 Coffee break

12.00-13.15 Working groups session 1
1. Discrimination in employment: access to employment, sticky floor and harassment **facilitated by Michael Privot, Director, ENAR**
2. Access to justice and awareness of rights **facilitated by Imane El Morabet, UNIA, the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities, Belgium**
3. Measuring Islamophobia and its sexist dimension **facilitated by Marwan Muhammad, Executive Director, Collective against Islamophobia in France**

13.15-14.15 Lunch

14.15-14.35 Building a convergence of struggles across movements
A conversation between Intissar Kherigi, ENAR Board member and Joanna Maycock, Secretary General, European Women’s Lobby

14.35-16.05 Thematic interactive panel 2 : Hate crime, hate speech and violence against women
Presentation of the report’s findings by Julie Pascoet, Senior Advocacy Officer, ENAR

**Discussion – Combating hate crime, hate speech and violence against women: how to have an intersectional approach.** *Moderated by Claire Fernandez, Deputy Director - Programmes, ENAR*
• **Azra Junuzović**, Deputy Head, OSCE-ODIHR’s Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department
• **Fatima Doubakil**, Spokesperson, Swedish Muslim Human Rights Committee
• **Emilie Jarrett**, Assistant Policy Officer, Unit for Equality between women and men, Directorate-General Justice, European Commission
• **Malin Björk**, Member of the European Parliament, European Parliament’s Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee
• **Marwan Muhammad**, Executive Director, Collective against Islamophobia in France

16.05-16.20 Coffee break

16.20-17.35 Working group session 2
1. Building a common agenda between Muslim women and feminist groups **facilitated by Kahina Rabahi, Policy Assistant, ENAR**
2. Debunking myths about Muslim women and challenging public discourse **facilitated by Sandra Doevendans, former Chair, Al Nisa, The Netherlands**
3. Victim-centred approach and building trust: training to counter sexism and islamophobia **facilitated by Faeeza Vaid, Executive Director, Muslim Women’s Network UK**

17.35 Closing
A unique opportunity to:

- Meet and listen to key experts and high-level officials working on challenging sexism and racism
- Contribute actively to the discussions on how to advance rights for Muslim women in Europe
- Reflect on your own practices and be inspired by other great women
- Design concrete solutions for greater inclusion of Muslim women in the workplace and for combating Islamophobic and sexist crime and speech
- Network and build partnerships with a diversity of stakeholders to develop a stronger front against racism and sexism in the European Union
- Gain expertise on Islamophobia and gender equality

The European report is based on national research. Some researchers will be present in the Symposium: Dermana Šeta (European author), Asmaa Soliman (German author), Marjorie Moya (French author), Giulia Dessi (Italian author) and Iman Abou Atta (UK author).

With the support of:

More information about the project:
http://enar-eu.org/Forgotten-Women-the-impact-of-Islamophobia-on-Muslim-women