

**INSTITUTIONAL
ISLAMOPHOBIA
CONFERENCE 2014
MEDIA KIT**

Press release: Institutional Islamophobia Conference - December 13

A high-profile conference on Islamophobia bringing together some of the issue's leading luminaries will take place in London next week. Organised by the Islamic Human Rights Commission the gathering will explore and suggest responses to the alarming rise of Islamophobia in the UK.

Recent years have witnessed an unprecedented increase in Islamophobic discourse that perpetuates bigotry towards Muslims and results in an intensified climate of fear that prevents people from expressing their ideas and beliefs. The extreme marginalisation of Muslims is an issue that affects everyone since it strikes at the heart of what it means to live in an inclusive democratic society.

The findings of a discrimination survey published last week by Dr Nabil Khattab and Professor Ron Johnston using data from the Office for National Statistics' Labour Force Survey of more than half a million people, revealed that Muslims were substantially less likely to have a job of any kind compared to white, British Christians. They concluded that discrimination was "likely to stem from placing Muslims collectively at the lowest stratum within the country's racial or ethno-cultural system due to growing Islamophobia and hostility against them....They are perceived as disloyal and as a threat rather than just as a disadvantaged minority."

The focus of the event is to analyse institutional and structural forms of prejudice and hatred with some focus on recent events, particularly in education, political activism, the criminalisation of dissent, the role of the media and the UK government's anti-terrorist Prevent agenda. IHRC aspires to erect a platform to build a connection between academia and grassroots work. The aim of the conference is not simply to rehash and configure what Islamophobia entails, but to instead discuss strategies and solutions in a systematic way.

The afternoon will begin with two panels addressing the audience. Each speaker will give a presentation on their own work while also outlining their concerns about state-inspired Islamophobia. This will then be followed by an interactive Q&A and informal discussion with the audience – an activity designed to form part of the process of developing recommendations.

The conference will be streamed live on www.ihrc.tv and viewers around the world will be given the opportunity to participate and engage in the proceedings.

The event has been organised as part of IHRC's work within the Decoloniality Europe Network. This year different parts of the network are adopting Parti Indigenes de la Republique's community Islamophobia Conference format.

Briefings, Reports and Books:

This is only a small selection of IHRC's extensive work, please visit www.ihrc.org.uk for more

REPORTS AND BOOKS

Titles from IHRC's Hate Crime project:

- Only Canadian: The Experience of Hate Moderated Differential Citizenship for Muslims (2014) - <http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/reports/11027-only-canadian-the-experience-of-hate-moderated-differential-citizenship-for-muslims>
As well as inspecting Islamophobic and racist acts, the study challenges the accuracy of Canada's self-perception as a multicultural nation.
- Once Upon a Hatred: Anti-Muslim Experiences in the USA (2013) - <http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/reports/10513-once-upon-a-hatred-anti-muslim-experiences-in-the-usa>
Reveals the shocking statistic that 30% of Muslims surveyed have experienced a hate-motivated physical attack
- France and the Hated Society: Muslim Experiences (2012) - <http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/reports/10292-france-and-the-hated-society-muslim-experiences>
The report constitutes an important intervention of interest for policy makers, activists as well as scholars
- Getting the Message: The Recurrence of Hate Crimes in the UK (2011) - <http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/reports/9736-getting-the-message-the-recurrence-of-hate-crimes-in-the-uk>
The inaugural study in the ongoing project investigating issues of hate crimes and discrimination as experienced by Muslims
- Stripping Of Nationality As A Weapon Of Political Suppression: The Cases Of Bahrain, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait (2014) - <http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/reports/11230-stripping-of-nationality-as-a-weapon-of-political-suppression-the-cases-of-bahrain-united-kingdom-united-arab-emirates-and-kuwait>
A report by Caterina Aiena on the widespread phenomenon of stateless people
- IHRC Response to Tackling Extremism in the UK, a government report (2014) - <http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/reports/10904-teuk-response>
Faisal Bodi, for IHRC, outlines a critical response to TEUK

- Countering Terror or Counter-Productive? Comparing Irish and Muslim Experiences of Counter-insurgency Law and Policy (2010) - <http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/reports/9384-comparing-irish-and-muslim-experiences-of-counter-insurgency-law-and-policy>
T days of discussions took place in Belfast in June 2009 between a group of Irish human rights and community activists and political ex-prisoners and representatives of a number of Muslim groups working on similar issues
- Europe's Shame: Anti-Muslim Hatred and the Roma of Bulgaria (2010) - <http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/reports/7905-forthcoming-q-europes-shame-anti-muslim-hatred-and-the-roma-of-bulgaria-q>
This report looks at the situation of Roma communities in Bulgaria, and the discrimination they face
- For Liberty? (2009) - <http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/reports/4562-for-liberty->
The Impact of the French Ban on the Islamic Headscarf and other Religious Symbols in Schools
- British Muslims' Expectations of the Government (BMEG) - <http://www.ihrc.org.uk/activities/projects/7902-british-muslims-expectations-of-the-government-bmeg>
Through extensive surveys with Muslims across the UK, IHRC set out to give voice to the expectations of Muslims and articulate them to the British government

BRIEFINGS

- An Ongoing Persecution: Minorities in Canada, France, UK, USA & Netherlands (2014) - <http://www.ihrc.org.uk/publications/briefings/11280-an-ongoing-persecution-minorities-in-canada-france-uk-usa-a-netherlands>
In a statement to the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues IHRC highlights continued discrimination
- European Court of Human Rights judgment on French laws banning the niqab and burqa (2014) - <http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/briefings/11159-european-court-of-human-rights-judgement-on-french-laws-banning-the-niqab-and-burqa>
Lena Mohamed look s at the June 2014 judgment in the ECHR over the French ban on face veils

- Operation Trojan Horse: What isn't being said (2014) -
<http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/briefings/11009-operation-trojan-horse-what-isnt-being-said>
Articles and opinion pieces on the so-called 'Islamist' plot to take over schools in Birmingham
- Concerns over the Immigration Bill 2013-2014 (2014) -
<http://www.ihrc.org.uk/publications/briefings/10983--concerns-over-the-immigration-bill-2013-14->
IHRC's concerns over the amendments to s40 of the British Nationality Act 1981 in the Immigration Bill 2013-14
- How complaining about the media doesn't work (2013) -
<http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/briefings/10750-how-complaining-about-the-media-doesnt-work>
How complaints procedure reinforce structural racism in the media
- Is Islamophobia a form of racism? (2013) -
<http://ihrc.org.uk/publications/briefings/10681-is-islamophobia-a-form-of-racism>
From the History of Al-Andalus to Fanon's Zone of Being and Zone of Non Being
- The amendments to Schedule 7 Terrorism Act 2000 (2013) -
<http://www.ihrc.org.uk/publications/briefings/10778-schedule-7-amends-2013>
IHRC's concerns over the amendments in the anti-social behaviour, crime and policing bill 2013
- Assessing Hate Crimes and Backlash for Policy Change (2013) -
<http://www.ihrc.org.uk/publications/briefings/10595-assessing-hate-crimes-and-backlash-for-policy-change>
IHRC presents a critical overview of existing methods of data collection and provides alternatives

PRESS CONTACTS

For any media – video, images, interview requests, etc please contact nadia@ihrc.org