



U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing

Anti-Muslim Policies and Bias in Europe

Panel



Christie Edwards is an internationally recognized and published legal expert with over twenty-one years of experience working on international humanitarian and human rights law, gender, international policy and advocacy, and international community development. Since 2017, Christie has served as the Deputy Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), working on hate crimes, social cohesion, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and civilian protection. Previously, as the Director of International Humanitarian Law at the American

Red Cross, Christie led ARC's legal education, public, and youth outreach efforts on IHL. She is a member of the Committee for the Jean-Pictet Competition (CCJP) which organizes the renowned Jean-Pictet IHL Competition.



Sabrina Saoudi is the Adviser on combating intolerance against Muslims at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). She has extensive experience in developing strategic partnerships with civil society organizations, institutions, and governments, and leading multi-country programs with a focus on the Middle East, Africa, and the Muslim world. As former Head of Strategic Partnerships and European Union (EU) liaison at the first EU-Mediterranean Foundation for dialogue, Sabrina has been actively advocating for bridging the gap between civil society and governments. She was nominated to the 5+5

countries task force to create structures for dialogue amongst the EU, civil society, and governments following the Summit of the Two Shores. She has advocated for youth-led peacebuilding, including managing three different youth programs to advance on the "Youth, Peace and Security" agenda.



Rim-Sarah Alouane is a French legal scholar. As a Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Law at the University Toulouse-Capitole in France, her research focuses on religious freedom, civil liberties, constitutional law, and human rights in Europe and North America. Ms. Alouane’s doctoral thesis explores the practice of Western judges (more specifically in North America and France) regarding the protection of religious freedom. She cites current events involving the integration of religious minorities especially Muslims. Her work has been published by leading law and social sciences global journals including Atlantic Council, Brookings, and Foreign Policy. These include “Where Face Masks Are Required but Burqas Are Banned: Switzerland’s crackdown on Islamic

symbols is normalizing anti-Muslim bigotry across the political spectrum.” (Foreign Policy, 2021), and “The Weaponization of Laïcité” (The Berkley Forum, 2020).



Zara Mohammed was elected the first female, first Scot, and youngest Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain in February 2021. Prior to having been elected to her current post, she has served as an Assistant Secretary-General (2018-2020) for the Muslim Council of Britain, helping lead on the MCB’s ongoing COVID-19 response work since the outset of the pandemic, and, more recently, the MCB taskforce that delivered the campaign against forced cremations of COVID-19 deceased in Sri Lanka. Zara has a master's graduate in Human Rights Law and a Training and Development Consultant. She is passionate about

community change, empowering young people, and improving diversity and inclusion both within her communities and beyond.



Dr. Péter Krekó is the Director of Political Capital Institute, a Budapest-based think tank, since 2011. He is an Associate Professor at the ELTE University. From 2016 to 2017 he worked as a Fulbright Visiting Professor in the United States at the Central Eurasian Studies Department of Indiana University. His main research interests are disinformation, sharp power political influence, and political tribalism. He was the co-chair of the PREVENT working group at the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) between 2013 and 2016. He received many prestigious fellowships in the last few years, such as the Reagan-Fascell Fellowship at the National Endowment for Democracy, He was a Europe’s Futures Visiting Fellow of the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) and Erste Foundation, and a

non-resident Associate Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University SAIS Bologna Institute of Policy Research.



Jasmin Mujanović is a political scientist (PhD, York University) specializing in the politics of post-authoritarian and post-conflict democratization. His first book *Hunger and Fury: The Crisis of Democracy in the Balkans* (Hurst Publishers & Oxford University Press, 2018) examines the persistence of authoritarian and illiberal forms of governance in the Western Balkans since the end of the Yugoslav Wars. His publications also include peer-reviewed articles in leading academic journals, chapters in numerous edited volumes, policy reports for Freedom House, the European Council on Foreign Relations, and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, as well as popular analyses in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and a host of other media. He has a prominent social media presence and has made appearances for international television and radio programs on NPR, BBC Radio, CBC News, Voice of America, Al Jazeera, as well as numerous Balkan media outlets. He presently serves as an Advisory Board Member of the Kulin Initiative.