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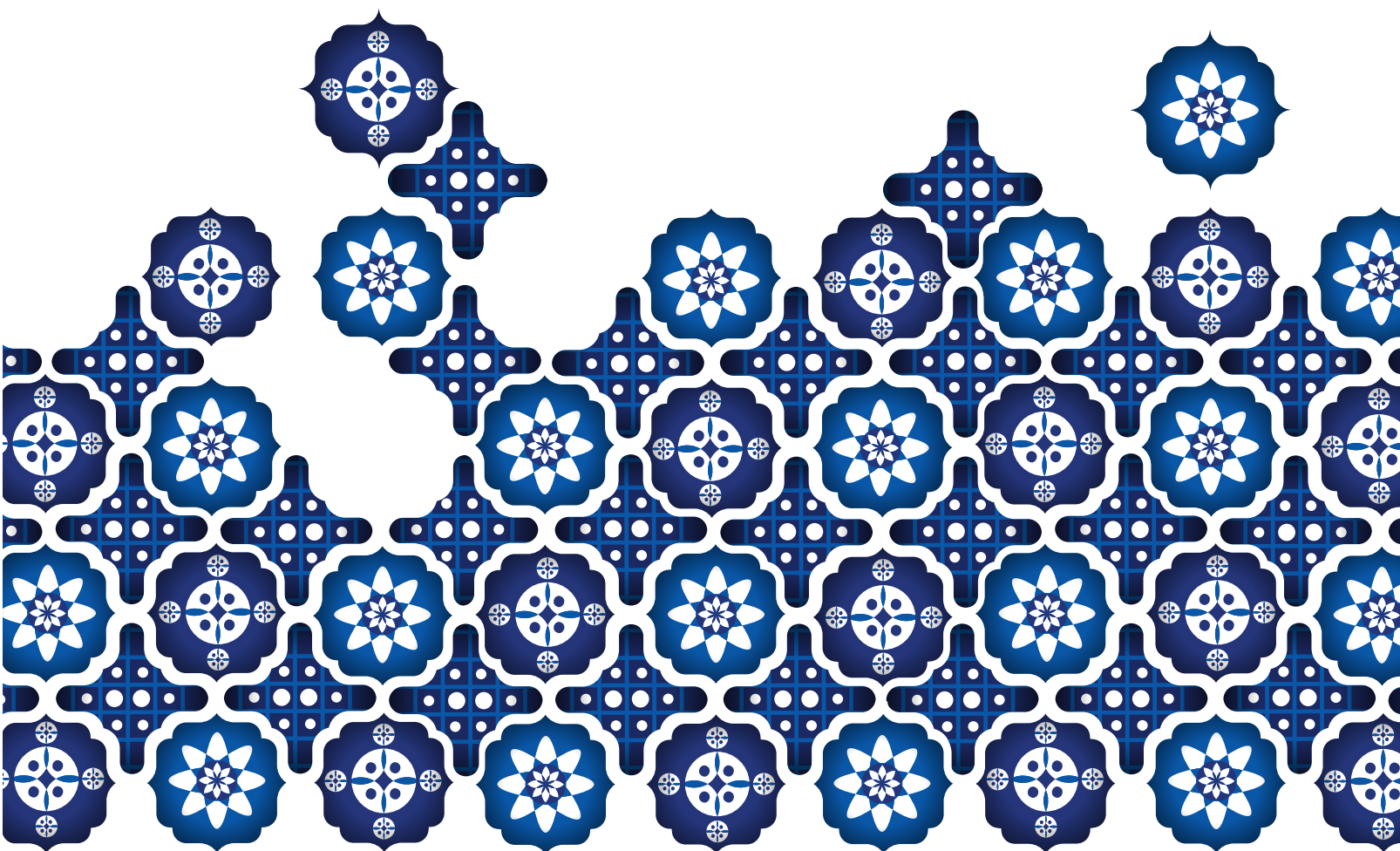
Muslim women and
communities
against gender
Islamophobia in society

EUROPEAN ROADMAP

TO CURB ANTI-MUSLIM GENDERED
STEREOTYPES AND PROMOTE
INCLUSIVENESS OF MUSLIM WOMEN
VOICES IN PUBLIC NARRATIVES



This project has received funding from the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme under grant agreement No. 963678. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the EU or the Consortium members.





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GENERAL CONTEXT OF GENDERED ISLAMOPHOBIA

The origin of gendered Islamophobia lies in the colonial imaginary of the Muslim as the *Other*. This *Other* is filled with negative stereotypes of Muslim people in general, and Muslim women in particular. This historically constructed image continues to be fed by public political debate and the media. Certain political groups promote the idea that Muslims, perceived as a homogeneous whole, are incapable of adapting to the European reality, thus denying the existence of European Muslims, and linking Islam with immigration, which is constructed to be negative. On the other hand, some mainstream media outlets continue to portray a reductionist image of Muslim women as passive victims of male violence or Islamic fundamentalism, especially in informative articles related to terrorism, religious practices, gendered violence, and the veil. This placative portrayal fails to report on the social, cultural and economic diversity of Muslim women and their output trends. Many components of this trend point to the intersection of racism and misogyny at which Muslim women find themselves, depriving them of their independence and freedom to choose. The issue also has clear reminiscences of misogynistic neo-colonialism.

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Much like during colonialism today the structures of gendered Islamophobia, as the sociologist and lecturer Dr. Hanane Karimi explains, also have the objective of controlling the body of Muslim women and regulating their religious visibility. This fight is played out on European Muslim women's bodies, with a high cost not only for their physical well-being but also for their mental health. The violent superiority that some politicians and feminists try to impose over the bodies of other European women is an attack not just on Muslim women but on women in general.

MAGIC analysis has found that the topic of the articles in which Muslim women appear is still mostly negative, which leads to a negative image of the Muslim community. On this subject, it is important to highlight that the media plays a key role in shaping imaginaries and in influencing public opinion, as they are ultimately spaces of influence. In a 2007 survey by the Pew Research Center, the factor specified as the most influential on opinions about Muslims was the media. The negative information receives more processing and contributes more strongly to the final impression than positive information, as Professor Stuart Soroka points out.

Muslim women who wear religious dress are particularly affected by inequalities because they are at the intersection of different forms of oppressions, especially anti-Muslim racism and sexism. In this sense, they are not only victims of seldom discriminatory acts or attacks that affect their daily lives (such as access to work, housing, etc.) but also of political and legislative measures adopted at national level by several EU member states, despite the existence of

European legal frameworks that guarantee non-discrimination on religious grounds, such as article 21.1 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or the Directive 2000/78. Anti-Muslim hatred is not compatible with the EU values, rights and legal framework, and as a consequence it becomes necessary to work collectively on protecting the rights of European Muslim women.

In this respect, women who choose to wear the headscarf in any of its forms are identifiable targets and therefore victims of discrimination and hate speech. According to data from the *Collectif pour l'Inclusion et contre l'Islamophobie en Belgique* (CIIB), in Belgium, 91% of the victims of Islamophobic incidents in 2021 were women, while in the Netherlands, according to *Meld Islamofobie*, in 2015 this figure amounted to 91%. In the UK, in 2018, according to the annual report of the *Tell Mama* organisation, 57% of Islamophobic attacks were directed against women following the trend that had already been recorded in previous years, and in Germany a survey revealed that 59% of Muslim women reported that they had been offended or insulted.

Despite the aforementioned rights-based legal frameworks, such existing systemic discrimination creates a normalisation and legitimisation of this Islamophobia, affecting Muslim women at different levels, from their access to education or employment to, for example, their contribution as mothers to the context in which their children are educated. This tendency to “institutionalise” Islamophobia is especially serious in France, but there are also discriminatory laws in Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands and Germany. Although extreme right parties have normalised hate speech and Islamophobia in their political discourse and public debates, the political formations not subscribed to the extreme right have promoted this rhetoric.

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The most studied area is related to discrimination against Muslim women in access to employment: in Spain, 50% of the population in a survey of the Pew Research Center (2016) indicates that they have a negative perception of Muslim people; in Germany, only 3% of covered Muslim women who put their photo on their CV were called in for an interview; in Belgium, 44% of employers recognised that the hijab can negatively affect the selection of female candidates.

The ENAR report (2016) notes two main challenges that prevent a more complete vision of the state of gendered Islamophobia in Europe. On the one hand, the lack of reports by the women affected. The reasons for this under-reporting are various, from lack of knowledge about the ways to report, lack of trust in public entities, fear of victimisation or normalisation of discrimination. The detailed collection of this data would help to advance the fight against this form of discrimination. Only with unbiased information and data about hatred and discrimination against Muslim women at the EU level will it be possible to get a full picture of the phenomenon and to design measures and policies.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MAGIC

In order to achieve its main objective, which is to prevent gendered Islamophobia in Spain and in Belgium, particularly in the media, and to draw useful lessons for other European countries, MAGIC has developed an activity plan divided in three phases: newspaper analysis, trainings, and awareness-raising.

ANALYSIS OF NEWSPAPERS

Over 15 months, MAGIC conducted an analysis of 3 Spanish newspapers (*El País*, *La Razón* and *ABC*) and 3 Belgian newspapers (*Le Soir*, *La Dernière Heure*, and *Het Laatste Nieuws*) on media narrative covering issues related to Muslim women for the purpose of assessing how media outlets report on Muslim women and, where applicable, demonstrate their complacency with gendered Islamophobia. The analysis was based on a methodology agreed upon during the online Multi-actor Benchmarking Lab, where different academics, journalists and Muslim activists met. This methodology adopts “Critical Discourse Analysis” as an analytical framework for a starting corpus of 6 national newspapers.

“Critical Discourse Analysis” (Teun A. Van Dijk) focuses on discursive analysis and studies, mainly the way in which abuse of power and social inequality are portrayed, reproduced, legitimised and persist in text and speech in social and political context and is already used in studies on the portrayal of Islam and Muslim women in the British press. The methodology focuses on three constant aspects in studies on the portrayal of Muslims in the media:

- Otherness based on the discourse of us vs. them, an us to which only positive characteristics are attributed compared to *them* marked by negative attributions, and which only increases ignorance and rejection.
- The consensual cultural image based on Western secularist and ethnocentric interpretations of Eastern societies.
- The Orientalist discourse that continues to legitimise long-implemented hegemonic military policies in Muslim majority countries, or migration security policies.

A questionnaire guided the analysis of the selected newspapers to unify the standards of evaluation and interpretations. It is clear that the difficult conditions in which journalists carry out their work for different reasons such as job insecurity, lack of time, etc., have an impact on the subject. These aspects could not be reflected in the quantitative analysis, but they will be taken into account in qualitative analyses and subsequent reports.

So as to make sure the analysis of the data is accurate and covers as many issues as possible, the project set regular meetings with journalists, university teachers, civil society organisations and

Muslims. Those National Consultations were thought of as a tool for monitoring and continuous improvement of methodology and for ensuring quality, inclusiveness and objectivity of the reports. A total of 8 reports were created: 6 biannual dispatches, 2 Country Reports and a Cross-country report.

MAGIC has analysed a total of 371 news items in Spain and Belgium which led to the following conclusions:

- There is still a large absence of Muslim women's voices in the media.
- Islamophobic sources still have a major presence in these news items, as well as Islamophobic comments by journalists.
- Although the headscarf issue is losing prominence in the news and is usually treated in a neutral way, negative testimonies about it are still present.
- The subject of the articles in which Muslim women appear is still mostly negative, which translates into a negative image of the Muslim community.
- The use of photos in this type of information has improved considerably.
- Muslim women continue to be confined to the same premises as always: they are only believers. They do not exist beyond their religiosity, erasing all individuality and diversity.

TRAININGS

Alongside, the media analysis, MAGIC aims to offer tools to Muslim community leaders, Muslim women, civil society organizations (CSOs), and students of journalism.

To do so, it has designed a toolkit on how to stand against gendered Islamophobia, which aims to enhance the capacity to identify Islamophobia, including gendered Islamophobia, learn new communication tools, and develop strategies to combat its manifestations in the media. This toolkit has been used to organise several trainings for Muslim community and civil society actors in Belgium and Spain. These sessions helped civil society actors to identify and challenge stereotypes, discrimination, discourse and hate crime against Muslims and Muslim women in particular, and to promote the inclusion and diversity of Muslim voices in public narratives, improving the knowledge of grassroots actors, and the dialogue and mutual cooperation between these actors and media professionals.

On the other hand, MAGIC has also designed a document to train media circles on inclusiveness and diversity, which aims to provide tips and advice to journalists and news media on how to approach social justice, racism, and gendered Islamophobia. In the context of rising Islamophobia, which has been often reinforced by media bias and a focus on so-called "Muslim terrorism", news media need to focus on inclusive journalism that eases public anxiety, calls out political intolerance, and pushes back bias and prejudice in public life.

In this context, 6 trainings for students of journalism took place in several universities in Belgium and Spain with the aim of providing tools to students while identifying and reporting anti-Muslim

women stereotypes and hate speech in the media, and promoting inclusiveness and diversity of Muslim voices in public narratives. The students came from a variety of backgrounds and countries.

RAISING AWARENESS

MAGIC not only foresees mapping gendered Islamophobia in Spain and Belgium and equipping communities and journalists to face this paramount challenge, but also enhancing dialogue and youth sensitisation about hate speech directed at Muslim women and its consequences and impact.

To do so, the project launched a youth contest of essays on gendered Islamophobia. The (12) selected essays written by both Muslim and non-Muslim European youngsters stress issues such as the various forms of how Muslim women experience racism on a daily basis; the outline of Islamophobic and gender prejudices in media outlets; solidarity between their common struggles and challenges; the reasons and paths of Muslim women deciding to wear the headscarf, which are personal, unique and diverse, and should not constitute an obstacle to their free fulfilment as women; how Islamophobia is not a problem only for Muslim people but for European society as a whole.

In addition, in order to deconstruct prejudices and to address the harmful discourses to which Muslim women are subjected, MAGIC has funded (6) awareness-raising campaigns to tackle gendered Islamophobia at the local level both in Belgium and Spain. Through various channels, such as radio programmes, podcasts, and even theatre plays, the awareness campaigns might represent a first step in curbing anti-Muslim gender stereotypes and promoting inclusiveness of Muslim voices in public narratives.

This is why the project has created the need for a MAGIC Coalition that continues beyond the project itself as a final legacy, whose aim is to contribute to report, prevent and fight against gendered Islamophobia in public narratives not only in Spain and Belgium but in other European countries as well. To do so, a MAGIC Declaration was adopted and published setting out the aims and objectives of the Coalition. All individuals and organisations are welcome to join the Coalition, which is expected to grow in the near future. Being aware of the numerous challenges that such an initiative might face, as past experiences have shown, the signatories are aware of the importance of taking responsibility for making a tangible difference in the fight against anti-Muslim hatred.

Taking the above into consideration, the members of the MAGIC Coalition are aware of the paramount importance of having the presence of Muslim women in public narratives as a powerful tool to promote knowledge and revert anti-Muslim hatred. Thus, the Coalition first activities might be related to the dissemination and promotion of the recommendations included in this Roadmap as a first step to reach its objectives.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTIONS ON HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR AND PROMOTE MORE INCLUSIVE NARRATIVES ON MUSLIM WOMEN IN PUBLIC NARRATIVES

In light of the aforementioned, MAGIC proposes the following recommendations in order to curb anti-Muslim gender stereotypes and promote inclusiveness of Muslim women voices in public narratives. The MAGIC Coalition might have an important role in promoting these objectives among public authorities at the local, national and European levels.

- Include Muslim women's voices in information beyond their religiosity: everyday issues, professional social issues, etc.
- Provide spaces for Muslim women to discuss the issues they face, thus creating a media that challenges negative stereotypes.
- Establish a relationship with Muslim women in the media's immediate environment. This relationship can be mutually beneficial for both parties.
- Promote the presence European cultural and religious diversity, particularly in media outlets.
- Collaborate with other organisations: sharing resources, expertise and ideas to achieve common goals.
- Raise awareness to fight against stereotypes.
- Promote workshops on diversity and stereotypical view of Islam.
- Implement training programmes in universities and companies in order to be aware of the diversity.
- Create a toolkit with the legal mechanisms at the disposal of Muslim citizens in each EU country, according to their own national legislation and European, too.

- Create an institutional online presence that helps denounce Muslim hatred in order counter fake news promoting fear and biases towards the Muslim community.
- Promote the EU Equality values as a tool of protection against Anti-Muslim hatred.
- Reinforce the trainings at all levels and build bridges between civil society and journalists but also other sectors such as local authorities. As mentioned, MAGIC should go local: reach city governments and local authorities.
- Develop specific programmes aimed at government officials, youth and the general public to raise awareness and understanding of intolerance against Muslims.
- Need to have data in order to create awareness among society, journalists and politicians. It is important to provide data to those who are discussing priorities, and designing and implementing policies.

ANNEXES

MAGIC: 5WS AND HOW

WHAT IS MAGIC?

MAGIC (Muslim Women and Communities against Gender Islamophobia in Society) is a project that aims to prevent gendered Islamophobia in Spain and in Belgium, in particular in media outlets, and to draw lessons useful for other European countries. It is funded by the European Commission, within the framework of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme.

MAGIC has brought together in a Multi-Actor Benchmarking Lab several journalists, professors of journalism, representatives of media associations, Muslim communities' representatives, particularly women, and representatives of civil society organisations working on diversity to produce a detailed methodology to conduct quantitative and qualitative analyses of Spanish and Belgian newspapers. The project has monitored gendered islamophobia in 3 Spanish newspapers and 3 Belgian newspapers, on the basis of the agreed methodology.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

The project is carried out by an interdisciplinary team comprising 4 partners from Spain and Belgium.

European Institute of the Mediterranean

A think tank based in Barcelona that specialises in Euro-Mediterranean relations.

Media Diversity Institute Global

MDIG is a non-profit organisation, based in Brussels, which unlocks the power of media to lessen conflict, advance human rights and support a deeper public understanding of social diversity.

Fundación Al Fanar para el Conocimiento Árabe

Based in Madrid, it has a long track record of both working with Spanish media outlets and engaging with combating anti-Muslim hatred.

Collectif contre l'Islamophobie en Belgique

A Brussels-based non-profit association that works with Muslim communities in Belgium against Islamophobia and raises awareness about this form of racism.

**WHEN WAS IT
IMPLEMENTED?**

Over two years, from April 2021 until March 2023.

**WHERE HAS
RESEARCH BEEN
CONDUCTED?**

Fieldwork has been conducted in Spain and in Belgium.

WHY MAGIC?

Anti-Muslim expressions in Europe have been increasingly present in social, political and media discourse. Islamophobia constructs Islam as an “incomprehensible religion” and Muslims as “inferior, barbaric, irrational, sexist, primitive, violent, aggressive, and supportive of terrorism.” The EU-MIDIS II Survey (2017) emphasises how discrimination against Muslim women is overwhelmingly present in all dimensions of social life: employment, education and media.

The stigmatisation suffered by Muslim women is found in the intersection of gender and Islamophobia, with ethnicity or religious factors deepening the discrimination they would already experience as women. According to the Spanish Observatory of Islamophobia in the Media, 65% of news on Muslim women or the issue of the headscarf reproduced the stereotypes classified as Islamophobic in 2017.

There is an urgent need to work on the construction and dissemination of positive narratives reflecting the reality and diversity of Muslim women in Europe as well as enhancing their capacities and skills to shape such narratives themselves. Nonetheless, for this endeavour to be successful, other key actors should be involved and brought together in a common action, notably Muslim communities, CSOs working on diversity and media circles, which, as the above figures show, lack capacities and knowledge to effectively spot and report stereotypes.

AND HOW?

MAGIC worked to map gender Islamophobia in Belgian and Spanish newspapers with a twofold objective: to provide Muslim communities’ leaders, Muslim women and CSOs working on diversity with skills and tools to recognise and stand against stereotypes against Muslim women in public narratives and to promote inclusiveness of Muslim voices in the media.

MAGIC did so not only through training of journalists and capacity enhancement and promoting awareness campaigns but also by fostering knowledge, dialogue and mutual cooperation among Muslim communities' representatives, Muslim women, and CSOs and media practitioners.

The project's multi-actor approach, dialogue and awareness actions will strengthen cooperation, build trust and raise awareness of hate speech against Muslim women in media outlets. A number of joint activities and continuous exchanges will ultimately lead to a creation of MAGIC – A Coalition of Muslim Women and Communities Against Gender Islamophobia in Society, which will play a crucial role in disseminating the project's results in the long run, preventing, reporting, acting against and raising awareness of gendered Islamophobia in public narratives and in promoting inclusiveness of Muslim voices in the media beyond the geographical and time scope of the project.

MAGIC COALITION OF MUSLIM WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES AGAINST GENDER ISLAMOPHOBIA IN SOCIETY

Taking advantage of the learnings of the project so far, the objectives and recommendations for the MAGIC Coalition are as follows:

OBJECTIVE 1. Reporting gendered Islamophobia and making the voices of Muslim women heard.

Actions to implement:

- Compile information on gendered Islamophobia at all levels and sectors.
- Raise awareness of gendered Islamophobia in public narratives.
- Promote inclusiveness of Muslim voices, stressing the importance of including Muslim narratives in the media.
- Create a database of Muslim female experts and sources for journalists.
- Create a list of blogs, online and offline media, and podcasts where Muslim women could write and communicate their projects and ideas.
- Creating a community of solidarity and knowledge to overcome self-censorship, to develop expertise, objectivity and legitimacy on the issues.
- Make use of the existing tools for learning and best practices on reporting discrimination and hate crimes and create new ones, if necessary.
- Create an online archive and library to upload academic papers, projects, and good practices.
- Launch an award on best practices in media.

OBJECTIVE 2. Advocating European policy-makers on issues affecting Muslim women.

Actions to implement:

- Provide a clear definition on Islamophobia that takes into account a structural and intersectional approach.
- Include Muslim women in the process of finding solutions to the problems derived from the processes of discrimination.

OBJECTIVE 3. Provide a coordinated platform for European Action Against Gendered Islamophobia.

Actions to implement:

- Work with a bottom-up strategy, from local to European level.

- Create the framework for better coordination of activists across Europe to come together to coordinate on this issue.
- Disseminate the MAGIC project's results.
- Create intersectoral alliances, especially with communities affected by racism and sexism.
- Scale up, supporting and connecting existing grassroots initiatives by providing them with European visibility and access to strategic resources
- Implement capacity-building sessions to support women to develop their drafting skills and be able to articulate their narratives in public

MAGIC ADVISORY BOARD

Following the idea of listening to and introducing in the project the knowledge and experience of community leaders, academics and media practitioners, we create at the very beginning of the project the **MAGIC Advisory Board**, composed of six experienced women in the field of anti-Muslim hatred in Europe from different fields. These diverse profiles and geographical distribution were very important to increase the European dimension of the project. Their input and ideas had been central for the project in general but more specifically in documents like this Roadmap.

The Advisory Board is formed by:

Fatima Bent, President of [Lallab](#), a French **feminist and anti-racist organisation** that is opening a new path to defend women's rights by empowering Muslim women to become active stakeholders in the improvement of their situations.

Fatima Bent wrote for MAGIC the strategic note '[The situation of Muslims in France](#)'.

Linda Hyökki is a Ph.D. Candidate in Civilisation Studies at the Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul. Her doctorate thesis focuses on Islamophobia in Finland and the experiences of Muslim converts on racialisation. She works as the coordinator of the anti-Muslim racism working group at the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR). Furthermore, she has published policy papers, academic articles, and popular media pieces on Islamophobia in Europe and works in various projects as a freelance consultant on Islamophobia.

Linda Hyökki wrote for MAGIC the strategic note '[Muslims in Finland and issues concerning Muslim women](#)'.

Đermana Kurić is a researcher, advisor and consultant on addressing hate, exclusion and discrimination, and working towards greater diversity, equity and inclusion. She has co-authored volumes/articles involving the issues of religion, human rights and women. She is a former advisor on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Đermana Kurić wrote for MAGIC the strategic note '[Monitoring and Reporting Anti-Muslim Discrimination and Intolerance](#)'.

Julie Pascoet, is an advocacy expert specialised in EU policies and legislation related to racial equality and justice. In 2010 she joined [ENAR](#), the only pan-European anti-racism network that combines advocacy for racial equality and facilitates cooperation among civil society anti-racism actors in Europe.

Julie Pascoet wrote for MAGIC the strategic note '[Women affected by Islamophobia in the EU: reality and ways forward](#)'.

May Zeidani is a social scientist. Her work focuses on civil society networks against discrimination and postcolonial migration societies in Europe, asylum and migration policies, and identity formation processes in the context of German migration society. As a POC and migrant with Muslim and Jewish roots in Palestine and Europe, intersectional approaches play a central role in her work. She is currently the Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Officer at Bard College Berlin.

May Zeidani wrote for MAGIC the strategic note '[Muslim Woman in Germany](#)'.

Sarah Zouak, Co-founder and director of Lallab, a French feminist and anti-racist organisation that is opening a new path to defend women's rights by empowering Muslim women to become active stakeholders of the improvement of their situations.

MAGIC TASK FORCES

Speak up for Diversity! is a toolkit aimed at Muslim communities and civil society actors who are struggling for a more diverse, just and inclusive society. It aims to enhance their capacity to identify Islamophobia, including gendered Islamophobia, learn new communication tools, and develop strategies to combat its manifestations in the media, in private and public spaces, and in physical and virtual spaces.

The publication has been produced by a Task Force led by [Rizwana Hamid](#), Director of the Centre for Media Monitoring, which also included the journalists [Lucila Rodríguez-Alarcón](#) (Director of [Porcausa.org](#)) and [Andrea Olea](#) (independent journalist).

The document was successfully tested training 120 members of Muslim communities in Belgium and Spain equipped now with capacities and skills to recognise and effectively address anti-Muslim gender stereotypes in Spanish and Belgian contexts and with tools that can be replicated and enable them to act as multipliers.

The document is available in English, Spanish and French in this link: <https://magic.iemed.org/speak-up-for-diversity/>

Report Diversity! are Guidelines to Train Media Circles on Inclusiveness and Preventing Gender Islamophobia. Throughout this report, there are tips and advice to journalists and news media on how to approach this problem, particularly as it affects Muslim women.

This publication has been coordinated by Aidan White, Honorary President of the Ethical Journalism Network, with the contributions of Mariam El Marakeshy, an award-winning filmmaker, multimedia reporter, educator and consultant, and Shada Islam, independent EU Commentator and analyst.

The document was successfully tested by training 150 students of journalism in Spain and Belgium. The full document is available in English, Spanish and French on this link:

<https://magic.iemed.org/report-diversity/>

MAGIC DOCUMENTS

Bent, F. (2022). *The situation of Muslims in France*. MAGIC, https://magic.iemed.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Strategic-Note_Fatima-Bent.pdf

Hyökki, L. (2022). *Muslims in Finland and issues concerning Muslim women*. MAGIC, https://magic.iemed.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Strategic-Note_Linda-Hyokki_.pdf

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Pascoet, J. (2022). *Women affected by Islamophobia in the EU: reality and ways forward*. MAGIC, https://magic.iemed.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Strategic-Note_Julie-Pascoet.pdf

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White, A. (2022). *'Report Diversity!' Guidelines to Train Media Circles on Inclusiveness and Preventing Gender Islamophobia*. MAGIC, <https://magic.iemed.org/report-diversity/>

Zeidani Yufanyi, M. (2022). *Muslim Woman in Germany*. MAGIC, <https://magic.iemed.org/muslim-woman-in-germany/>

SPANISH AND BELGIAN MEDIA ANALYSIS REPORTS

The three Belgian newspapers monitored are *Le Soir*, *La Dernière Heure*, and *Het laatste Nieuws*, while the three Spanish are *El País*, *La Razón*, and *ABC*.

National Dispatches May-Sep 2021

There's lack of women voices in articles published in newspapers in Spain and Belgium that primarily discuss Muslim women and their roles in society, being female voices rarely called on for testimony and depicted mainly with a worrisome degree of superficiality.

National Dispatches Oct 2021-Feb 2022

The lack of Muslim women's voices and the focus on personal stories more than major themes were the main trends identified in the second period of analysis.

National Dispatches March 2022-July 2022

Findings again underlined, such as the lack of women's voices and the use of dubious lures for "clickbait" purposes, were discussed as ways to improve Muslim women's representation in the Media.

MAGIC Report – Spain

This publication includes the monitoring and mapping exercise during 15 months of journalistic narratives of three Spanish newspapers (*El País*, *ABC*, *La Razón*). The newspapers have been analysed in terms of presence and number of articles written about and by Muslim women, the visuals and the type of wording use.

MAGIC Report – Belgium

This publication includes the monitoring and mapping exercise during 15 months of journalistic narratives of three Belgian newspapers (*Le Soir*, *La Dernière Heure*, *Het Laatste Nieuws*). The newspapers have been analysed in terms of the presence and number of articles written about and by Muslim women, the visuals, and the type of wording used.

Cross-country report

In this publication, MAGIC offers a comparison between the results found in each country and underlines that if some patterns are to be found in Spain and Belgium these would surely be found in other European countries.

KEY RESOURCES ON ISLAMOPHOBIA IN THE EU

Ahmed Shaheed (2021). *UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Countering Islamophobia/anti-Muslim hatred to eliminate discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief*. (UN Doc. A/HRC/46/30), <https://www.undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FHRC%2F46%2F30&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False>

Amnesty International (2022). *Regional overview of Islamophobia in Europe*. Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/PACE-submission-Islamophobia-1-June-2022.pdf>

Counter-islamophobia toolkit, <https://cik.leeds.ac.uk/>

E. Bayrakli and F. Hafez (2021). *European Islamophobia Report*, Leopold Weiss Institute, <https://islamophobiareport.com/islamophobiareport-2021.pdf>

ENAR report on impact of counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation policies, <https://www.enar-eu.org/ENAR-research-on-the-impact-of-counter-terrorism-and-counter-radicalisation>

Forgotten women report - ENAR <https://www.enar-eu.org/Forgotten-Women-the-impact-of-Islamophobia-on-Muslim-women>

Fundamental Rights Agency data base on anti-Muslim hatred 2012-2020, <https://fra.europa.eu/en/databases/anti-muslim-hatred/home>

Islam, Muslims and Journalism. Guidelines for Media, <https://www.fundacionalfanar.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Islam-Muslims-and-Journalism.pdf>

ODIHR Anti-Muslim Hate Crime Factsheet, <https://www.osce.org/odihr/373441>

ODIHR Coalition Building Guide for Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, <https://www.osce.org/odihr/385017>

ODIHR Understanding Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes - Addressing the Security Needs of Muslim Communities: A Practical Guide, <https://www.osce.org/odihr/muslim-security-guide>

Restrictions on Muslim women's dress in the 28 Member States - Open Society Justice Initiative, <https://www.justiceinitiative.org/publications/restrictions-muslim-women-s-dress-28-eu-member-states>

ACTIONS AND PROJECTS AGAINST GENDERED ISLAMOPHOBIA IN EUROPE

European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is the only pan-European anti-racism network that combines advocacy for racial equality and enables cooperation between anti-racism actors in civil society in Europe. ENAR is backed by the “European Union Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme”. One of its projects on gendered Islamophobia is called “*Muslim women, forgotten women? Understanding the gender dimension of Islamophobia*”.

European Forum of Muslim Women is an NGO that works and cooperates with European and international organisations and institutions. Its main objectives include representing and promoting the interests of Muslim women before European and international institutions and ensuring better policies and regulation for Muslim women at the European and national level.

Al Nisa – Dé Nederlandse Moslimvrouwen organisatie, which launched a campaign aimed at combating prejudice about Muslim women and, at the same time, giving a sensitive insight on the social debate on Islam taking place in the Netherlands. The goal is twofold: to empower Muslim women and encourage their participation in society.

ACHIME – Asociación de Chicas Musulmanas de España, whose primary objective is to help young Muslim women to overcome the problems and prejudices of society, increase security and self-confidence, and get involved in political, social and cultural spheres.

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Lallab – Challenging Muslim women’s narratives is a feminist and anti-racist association whose objective is to make voices heard and defend the rights of Muslim women who are victims of sexist, racist and Islamophobic oppressions. It is bringing about a paradigmatic shift in the French political system to combat discrimination. It favours a world in which women freely choose their own paths of emancipation.

MEET: Preventing sexist Islamophobia. This project aims to create national committees against sexist Islamophobia and carry out studies on gendered Islamophobia, based on discussion groups formed by the people involved. Enabling the organisation of socio-cultural events, creating a young audience for a web series aimed at combating sexist Islamophobia and the dissemination of an awareness campaign at the European level.

European Muslim Women of Influence. The European Muslim Women of Influence (EMWI) initiative celebrates the achievements of Muslim women in social spheres with the aim of raising awareness of their contributions to European life, diversifying their core representation and inspiring achievements in the diverse communities of Europe.

Muslim Women’s Council. The Muslim Women’s Council was developed in response to a series of informal conversations with Muslim women from across the Bradford district and with leading female Muslim figures from across the UK over several years. In 2009, a feasibility study was carried out that identified the need to establish a regional structure led by Muslim women.

FemResist. This project revolves around racism, xenophobia and discrimination against Muslim women and especially against refugees, who are one of the most vulnerable groups that suffer Islamophobia. It focuses on the empowerment, support and protection of Muslim women who have been affected by acts of intolerance and especially hate speech.

YES – Youth Empowerment Support for Muslim Communities. This project aims to involve young people from the Islamic community in Italy and raise their level of awareness so that they confront Islamophobia by raising awareness of and promoting the reporting to public authorities of the episodes of Islamophobia suffered. To do this, young people will be trained in the use of tools and skills to inform communities and guide victims of discrimination. It will organise the first International Youth Forum against Islamophobia.

Observatorio de la Islamofobia en los Medios (Spain). The Observatory of Islamophobia in the Media is an initiative created in January 2017 by the Fundación Al Fanar and the European Institute of the Mediterranean in response to the worrying rise of Islamophobia. Created with a proactive vocation, the Observatory provides tools for a better representation of a diverse society and to raise awareness of Islamophobia as a form of discrimination. It is currently supported and funded by the Observatory against Racism and Xenophobia (OBERAXE) of the Ministry of Inclusion.

About the project:

MAGIC is a project which aims to prevent gendered Islamophobia in Spain and in Belgium, in particular in media outlets, and to draw lessons useful for other European countries. It is funded by the European Commission, within the framework of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme.

In the span of two years MAGIC has worked to map gendered islamophobia in Belgian and Spanish newspapers with a twofold objective: to provide Muslim communities' leaders, Muslim women, and CSOs working on diversity with skills and tools to recognise and stand against stereotypes against Muslim women in public narratives and to promote inclusiveness of Muslim voices in the media.

MAGIC has done so not only through training of journalists & capacity enhancement and promoting awareness campaigns but also by fostering knowledge, dialogue, and mutual cooperation among Muslim communities' representatives, Muslim women, and CSOs and media practitioners.

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