

**Second Plenary Session: Consequences of Intolerance against Muslims  
OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and  
Discrimination against Muslims**

ENGLISH only

**Cordoba, 09 October 2007**

Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

As a representative of an organization for a new generation of Muslims in Austria: The Muslim youth Austria.

I want to point out the fact that the legal recognition of Islam in Austria is more than the basis for a peaceful and constructive cooperation.

The atmosphere what we created in Austria gives Muslims the opportunity to be a fully recognized part of the society. So young people with an Islamic believe are consciousness about there duties as an Austrian citizenship but also struggling for there rights.

So I will to point out some of our characteristics and the main issues of our organization, the Muslim youth Austria. We have been working with the second and third generation of Muslim youngsters for more than 10 years. Founded by a small group with different ethnic backgrounds, we are able to inspire a multitude of youngsters from all over Austria with a new idea / an Austrian Islamic identity.

This includes being fully/fledged citizens of Austria and participating in every level of daily life > socially, politically, economically and culturally. Our concept is integration through participation

Austria being the root and home of Muslim youngsters craves for creativity connection of the Islamic and Austrian identity. Far away from religious extremism on the one hand and complete loss of ones own identity on the other hand.

Muslim Youth Austria is the only German speaking, Islamic, independent youth organization in Austria. We represent the official Islamic faith community in youth issues and we are a member of the federal youth representation.

We seek to address to the issues of Muslim youngsters in our meetings and regular activities, in order to make a positive difference to there daily lives. Democracy does not only mean submitting your vote on Election Day, but learning in a group, talking and discussing about ones own ideas, organizing and achieving something together.

Education and advanced training is a crucial topic for us. We strive for further education of the youth on all levels. We organize continuous seminars about Islamic, socio/political and other topics concerning the development of ones personality. The engagement with democracy and participation serves the creation of political consciousness. We also emphasize on topics such as gender mainstreaming and the change of traditional role models.

With our services for the Muslim youth in particular and the interested social majority in general, we > together with all constructive forces > wish to take another step towards a promising future.

Thank you!