

Name and surname: **Krnjic Emina**

Affiliated organisation: **Youth Activist Initiative Against the Racial and Religious Intolerance**

Working Session: **Human Dimension Implementation Meeting Working Session 13: Tolerance and Non-Discrimination II**

Global Threats of Islamophobia to Bosnia and Herzegovina

My name is Emina Krnjic. I am from Bosnia and Herzegovina and I am representing the Youth Activist Initiative Against the Racial and Religious Intolerance.

Dear guests, any of us in this room could have been amongst the victims of the terrific crime of the Christchurch in New Zealand this year. If we were Muslim. The manifestations of intolerance against Muslims have become more visible since the last HDIM we had in 2018, and its global effects have not spared one of the only European Muslim-majority countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- That is why I strongly urge the representatives of my country **to invest in the CSOs** to help us combat the rising Islamophobic narratives in the country.
- Bosnian-Herzegovinian authorities must not leave the **hate crime incidents unsolved** anymore and we demand them to be prosecuted by the state.
- We ask the OSCE participating states and OSCE ODIHR to **work more on addressing islamophobia in B&H**. Our society needs support in working harder on this issue and offer concrete resources and need-based tools.
- We recognise the burden for solving these issues that comes from the fact that Bosnian Islamic Community **has not yet signed the agreement with the state** of Bosnia and Herzegovina, unlike the Christian Community has done (both Catholic

and Orthodox). We urge the Bosnian authorities and the OSCE ODIHR to work closely to bringing this issue to the table and solving it by signing the agreement to allow for the religious freedoms of Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Moreover, we are aware of the strong cooperation between White Supremacists who are also pushed in action by hard Islamophobes. This happens on an international level, and even at events such as this one. This is why we must address islamophobia respecting its global character.

The Global stance on Muslims reflects on the case of my country. Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced the most severe manifestation of islamophobia- the genocide of 90s. The recent invocations of genocide perpetrators in the manifesto of the Christchurch attacker shows that toxic ideologies see no borders. A present narrative in Bosnian society aims to dehumanise and share hostility towards Muslims. It is coming from the leading far-right politicians, as well as the ones from our neighbouring countries.

We are thankful to the OSCE for its support in combating those narratives. However, we do not wish to allow for the path for a new genocide or holocaust to be set by the current leaders and that is why we demand urgent action by implementing the abovementioned recommendations.

Thank you very much.
