

TURKISH CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD  
THE JOURNAL OF



**RIGHTS  
AND  
FREEDOMS**

2022



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE MINISTRY  
OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
PRESIDENCY FOR TURKS ABROAD  
AND RELATED COMMUNITIES

**TURKISH CITIZENS  
LIVING ABROAD  
THE JOURNAL OF RIGHTS  
AND FREEDOMS  
2022**

**NEŞAM**

Nefret Suçları ve  
Ayrımcılıkla Mücadele  
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May 2023



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# INTRODUCTION

Acts that differ when subjective and objective criteria in one's everyday life are adopted is called everyday racism or discrimination while the methods adopted by organisations to systematically marginalize individuals and groups are called institutional racism and discrimination, and the affirmative action taken to eliminate social inequalities between individuals and groups is called structural discrimination.<sup>1</sup>

In recent years, daily and organisational racism and discrimination have seen a significant upward trend across the world. In fact, they are addressed by special reports and research studies in many countries. For instance, the 2022 issue of Tangram magazine published annually by the Federal Commission Against Racism in Switzerland tackled structural racism. The phrase that goes "racism does not only structure a society but also turns it into a hierarchy"<sup>2</sup> is extremely striking.

Racism and discrimination are not only an act but also a social problem that causes perpetrators to feel entitled and victims to seek both legal and psychological aid. While there are a variety of reasons behind the growing number of cases in recent years, there seems to be an attempt of political discourse to normalise them in Europe, especially in France in 2022. Being widely compatible with the theory of Overton Window named after Joseph P. Overton, this notion refers to how views previously considered to make no sense can be adopted by people in the long run.

This theory may help us explain why the cases in 2022 were different in modus operandi and severity. Through more diverse methods than the previous year, the states and individuals seem to take oppressive, racist, and discriminatory actions and even act in a way that disregards the views, beliefs, and ethnic background of others under the pretext of freedom of expression and thought, freedom of religion and conscience, and freedom of association and assembly.

So much so that the protests staged in Sweden, Norway, and the Netherlands against Islam and the burning of Qur'an are easily permissible or ignored while police forces harshly respond to protests against such cases.

<sup>1</sup>Marc Verlot, "Understanding Institutional Racism", in The Evens Foundaiton (ed.), Europe's New Racism: Causes, Manifestations and Solutions, New York & Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2022, p. 31

<sup>2</sup>Tangram, Reveu de la Commission Fédéral contre le Racisme, no 46 (2022): "Le racisme structurel: une tentative d'approche", p. 14, [https://www.ekr.admin.ch/pdf/TANGRAM\\_46.pdf](https://www.ekr.admin.ch/pdf/TANGRAM_46.pdf)

Another interesting group of cases is about how attacks against mosques are classified. Leaving a dead pig's head behind, sending letters with hateful content and racism, and occasional Molotov cocktail attacks, where almost all of the attacks on the police records are committed under the category of "damage to property", "threat" or "insult" mean restrictions on the rights to effective remedy, access to justice and fair trial. On the other hand, this encourages perpetrators who are intolerant of migrants and Muslims in particular and whose number keeps rising every single day.

One of the reports that establish the case was released in 2022 by the Authoritarismus-Studie in its latest edition. The report shows that 70.2% of German nationals think that Muslims should be banned from migrating to Germany and 79.3% of them feel foreign because of the presence of the Muslims.<sup>3</sup>

The German Federal Assembly recorded 83 cases of anti-Islamic offence in the first quarter of 2022, and 69 in the second, and 120 in the third quarter of the same year. The number of cases regarding the fourth quarter has yet to be publicly available. A total of 272 anti-Islamic attacks were recorded in the first 3 quarters of 2022, and a total of 425 cases were detected over the same period of time in the previous year. As for the total number in 2021, the number of cases with a motive against Islam hit 732 for the entire year. 54 of them were attacks against mosques and prayer sanctuaries.

As part of the reply to the parliamentary inquiry No. 20/5517 of 3/2/2023 submitted to the German Bundestag, 3,589 cases of political crimes were recorded throughout Germany in 2022 and 1,036 cases, which accounts for nearly 30% of all cases, were of far-right motives.

The French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH), too, has reported a similar record. The French national police and gendarmerie forces recorded 12.600 cases of racism, xenophobia, and blasphemy across France in 2022. The number of cases involving racism was 6900. 65% of the cases involved insults, slander, and provocation. The same report indicates that 58% of the offences committed with a racist motive were billed as insults, with 17% as death threat, and 6% as physical violence. 32% of the attacks with a racist motive resulted in survivors getting incapacitated to work for 8 days. 78% of the offences were committed in business life while 18% of them were committed in the recruitment phase.

<sup>3</sup>Decker, O./Brähler, E. (2022): "Autoritäre Dynamiken in unsicheren Zeiten - Neue Herausforderungen - alte Reaktionen?", p. 72, [https://www.boell.de/sites/default/files/2022-11/decker-kiess-heller-braehler-2022-leipziger-autoritarismus-studie-autoritaere-dynamiken-in-unsicheren-zeiten\\_0.pdf](https://www.boell.de/sites/default/files/2022-11/decker-kiess-heller-braehler-2022-leipziger-autoritarismus-studie-autoritaere-dynamiken-in-unsicheren-zeiten_0.pdf)

As can be deduced from the aforementioned reports, although there is no specific information on our nationals living abroad, it would suffice to say that they have faced racism because they are foreigners and experienced discrimination based on their religious beliefs, mostly because they are Muslims. SETA's 2022 Report on Islamophobia in Europe<sup>4</sup> outlines the challenging days experienced by the Muslim communities in European countries. Many European countries associate any religious practice of Muslims that do not comply with their sense of Islam as "political Islam". As a result, they argue that they do not target Muslims or Islam; they target political Islam while trying to legitimize checks and pressure on people. One can refer to a few SETA reports for example. The report notes that 1727 Muslim organizations were subject to reviews, 118 of them were closed down and 10 million Euros of revenue was seized between January and August 2022 in France alone. The French Ministry of Interior portrayed the figures as a source of pride in combating political Islam and radicalization.

In another remarkable chapter of SETA's report, the budget of 500,000 Euros granted by Austria to the Documentation Centre Political Islam has been increased to 1.7 million Euros. The centre reportedly aims at combating political Islam. The grounds given by the states pave the way for intervention in individuals and organizations under the pretext of homeland security.

SETA's reports also indicate the following about other countries:

- Conducted by the Danish Human Rights Institute in March 2022, a survey indicates that the rate of immigrants taken under custody by the police without any complaint being filed is 27 percent higher than that of Danish nationals, and the rate of migrant children taken under custody is 45 percent higher.
- The German Centre for Integration and Migration Studies reports that 61% of respondents of a survey believe there is racism and discrimination. The same survey notes that while the rate of those who think they have experienced racism is 22%, the rate of those who report they have witnessed racism is 45%.
- In Belgium, 8.8% of nearly 3000 appeals made in the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities (UNIA) were made by those who experienced maltreatment because of their faith. Half of the complaints are about discrimination while one third of them involve hate speech.

<sup>4</sup><https://islamophobiareport.com/en/>

- The Dutch police reports that 67% of the blasphemous attacks are against Muslim people. 39 of the 63 people who faced discrimination at work and 26 of the 30 people who reported they were discriminated against at school were Muslims.
- Movisie based in the Netherlands reported that 79% of the 390 appeals to anti-discrimination bodies in 2022 were filed by Muslims.
- The Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia (OBERAXE) reported that anti-Muslim posts accounted for one-fifth of hate speech posts on social media in Spain in 2022.

According to the statistics released by the UK Home Office, Muslims were the groups of people targeted the most in 2022. The number of cases involving hate speech levelled at Muslims was 3459 between March 2021 and March 2022. The figure corresponds to a 42-percent increase compared to the previous period.<sup>5</sup>

Last but not least, the Collective for Countering Islamophobia in Europe (CCIE) reports that the number of appeals lodged in the Collective is 787. 527 of the appeals involved Islamophobia while 501 of the cases occurred in France. Of them, 527 cases are islamophobic while 501 of them took place in France. 527 cases are broken down by responses to discrimination (467), resentment and incitement to hatred (128), insult (71), harassment (59), slander (44), physical assaults (27), radicalisation, and separatism. Another major conclusion of the CCIE's report is that women are victims in 427 out of 527 cases.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.trthaber.com/haber/dunya/ingiltere-ve-gallerde-islam-karsitligi-nefret-suclari-artti-713892.html>

<sup>6</sup><https://ccieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/RAPPORT-CCIE-2022.pdf>

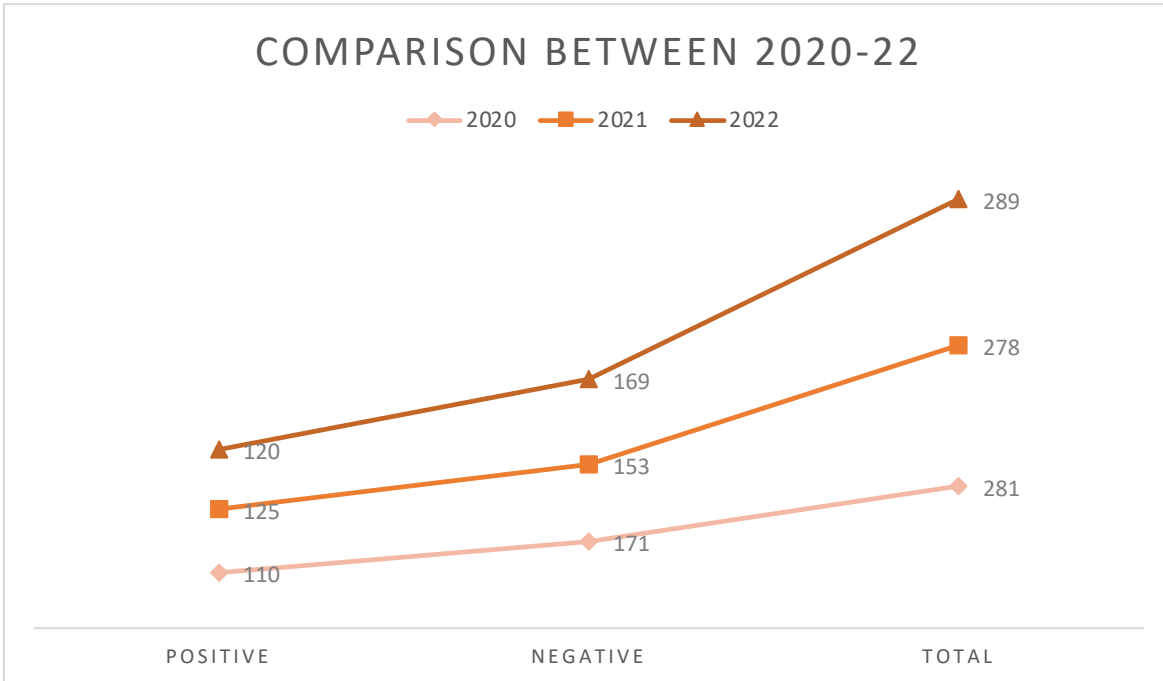


# DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING OUR DIASPORA IN THE CONTEXT OF RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES

YTB is entitled to take actions about problems facing Turkish nationals living abroad and denaturalized people, offer solutions for them, and take initiatives to improve their quality of life in line with the power granted by the Presidential Decree No. 4 Taking actions to make sure they are safeguarded against such major problems such as discrimination, assimilation, and xenophobia and our diaspora has full access to legal rights in communities they live in is one of the primary roles of the Presidency.

To this end, the last 3-year outlook of the Journal of Rights and Liberties, the first edition of which was released by the Presidency in 2021 based on data from 2020, is as follows:

- In 2020, there were a total of 281 records, 110 of which were positive and 171 were negative.
- In 2021, there were a total of 278 records including 125 positive and 153 negative ones.
- In 2022, there were 289 records, 169 of which were negative and 120 of which were positive.



Racism, described as the disease of our age stands out in both positive and negative developments in this year's edition of the Presidency's Journal of Rights and Liberties. The phenomenon of "Racism and Prohibition of Discrimination", which has been the subject of 35 positive and 30 negative developments, showed up in the practices of states concerning Turks and Muslims in 2022, both in individual and institutional forms of racism.

Drawn up by the Presidency based on open sources following the year 2022, a total of 289 legal and administrative developments, 169 of which were negative and 120 of which were positive, are reported for this year's edition. While 77 of the developments were recorded in Germany, where our diaspora has the largest population, Germany is followed by France with 53 cases. The Netherlands ranks third with 29 cases, followed by the United Kingdom with 24 cases. However, an individual bracket should be allocated for the United Kingdom because the majority of the cases recorded in the country are positive developments, unlike other countries.

As for the breakdown of the legal developments by rights, while cases concerning racism and prohibition of discrimination (66 cases) and the freedom of religion and conscience (52 cases) take the lead, cases concerning the freedom of association and assembly also stand out for another reason. In 2022, cases concerning freedom of association and assembly worked against Muslim and immigrant communities with 33 adverse developments, all of which were negative. While most of the developments took place in Norway, the cases mainly involved protests/demonstrations that called for standing up against the religion of Islam.

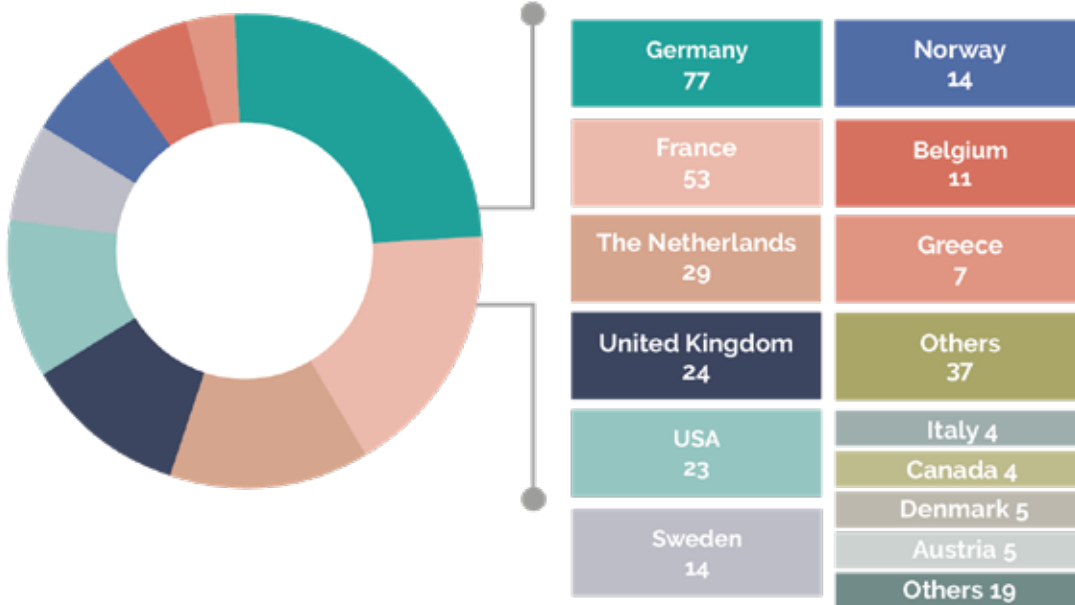
This year's edition includes six different close-up studies. The themes of the studies, which deal with the most popular and remarkable phenomena in countries throughout the year, include the growing number of attacks on public transportation in Germany and the Reichsbürger movement, the secularism and headscarf debates in France and the remarks made during the election campaigns, the attempts to ban halal and kosher regimes in Belgium and Europe's soft spot for PKK.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

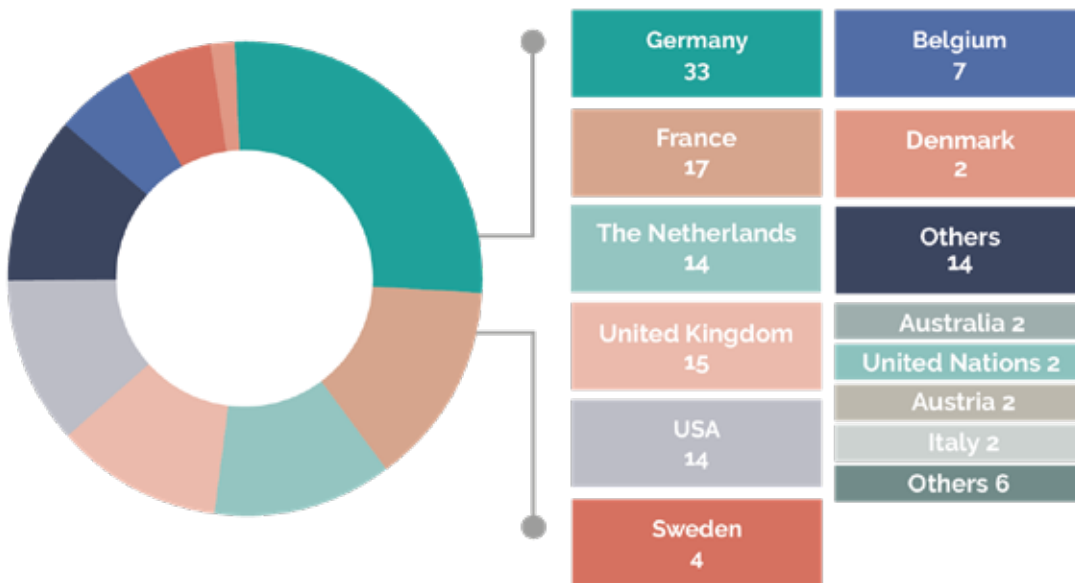
In 2022, a total of 289 legal and administrative developments took place in 23 countries and 2 international organizations that directly or indirectly affect or are likely to affect our diaspora. The breakdown of the developments, of which 169 are negative and 120 are positive, is as follows:

Country	Total Number of Developments	Positive	Negative
EU	2	1	1
USA	23	14	9
Germany	77	33	44
Albania	1	0	1
Australia	3	2	1
Austria	5	2	3
Belgium	11	7	4
United Kingdom	24	15	9
United Nations	2	2	0
Denmark	5	2	3
Finland	2	0	2
France	53	17	36
GCA	3	0	3
The Netherlands	29	14	15
Spain	1	1	0
Sweden	14	4	10
Switzerland	1	0	1
Italy	4	2	2
Canada	4	1	3
Kosovo	1	0	1
Hungary	1	0	1
Norway	14	1	13
Russia	1	1	0
New Zealand	1	1	0
Greece	7	0	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>169</b>

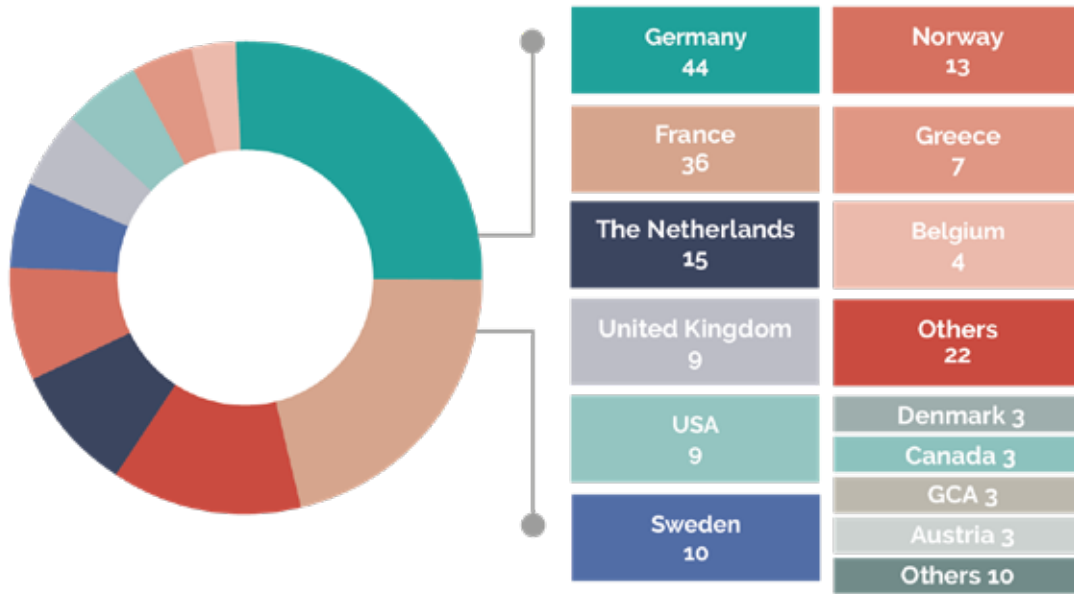
## ALL DEVELOPMENTS BY COUNTRIES



## POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS BY COUNTRIES



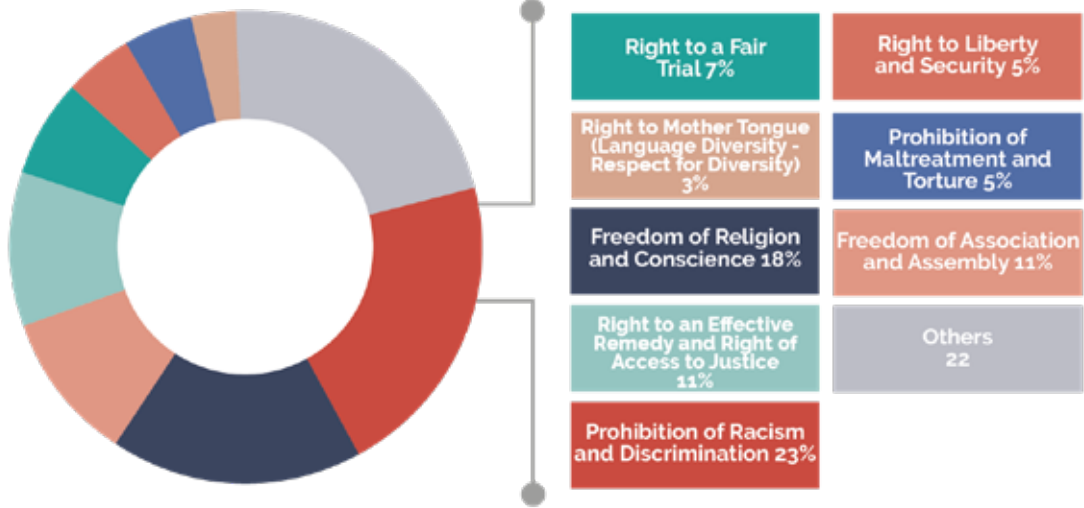
## NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS BY COUNTRIES



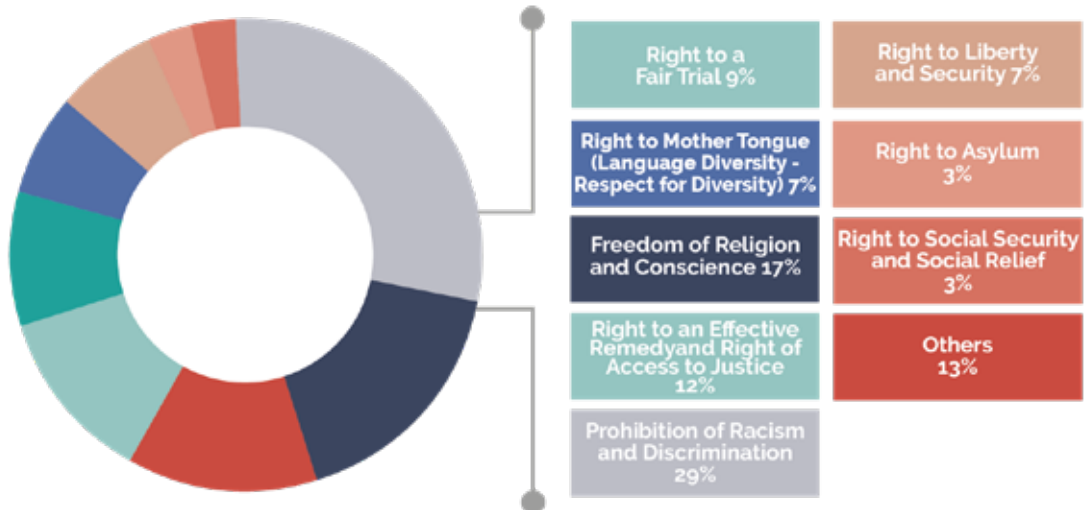
While racism and the prohibition of discrimination and freedom of religion and conscience take the lead in the breakdown of the legal developments under the categories of rights, the overall breakdown is as follows:

Right	Total Number of Developments	Positive	Negative
<b>Right to a Fair Trial</b>	19	11	8
Right to Respect for Family and Private Life	2	2	0
Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity)	9	8	1
Right to Work	1	1	0
Rights of the Child	1	1	0
<b>Freedom of Religion and Conscience</b>	52	21	31
Freedom of Opinion and Expression	6	1	5
Right to Education	1	0	1
<b>Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice</b>	33	15	18
Right to Marry	1	0	1
Freedom of Information	1	1	0
<b>Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination</b>	65	35	30
Equality Before the Law	7	1	6
Legality of Crime and Punishment (Proportionality of Punishment)	4	2	2
Right to Liberty and Security	15	8	7
Right to Protection of Personal Data	1	0	1
Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture	13	1	12
Prohibition on Aggravation	1	1	0
Right to Participate in Cultural Life	2	2	0
<b>Freedom of Association and Assembly</b>	33	0	33
Right to Health	2	0	2
Freedom of Travel and Residence	5	0	5
Right to Asylum	3	3	0
Right to Social Security and Social Relief	4	4	2
Right to a Nationality (Political Rights)	2	1	1
Right to Life	4	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>169</b>

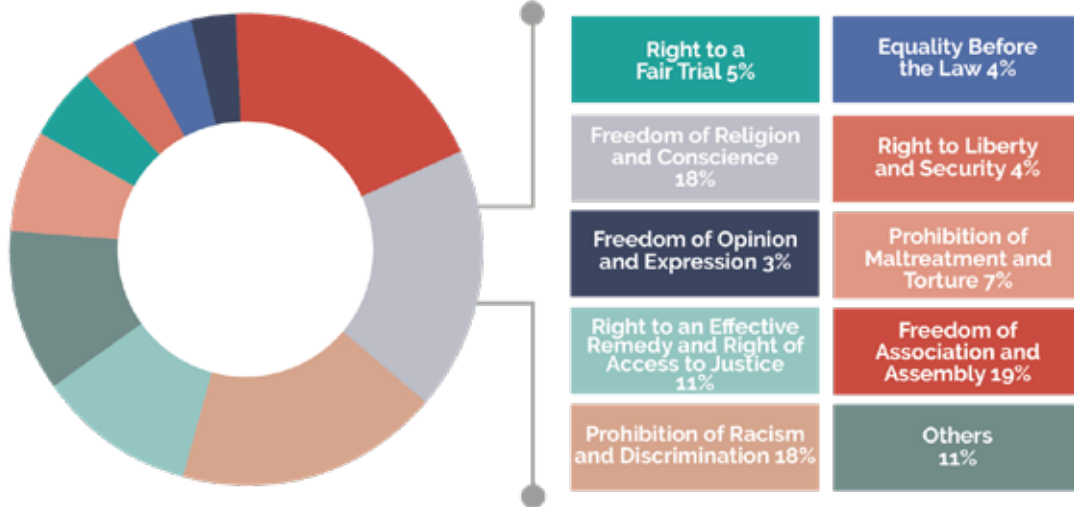
## TOTAL NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS BY RIGHTS



## POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS BY RIGHTS



## NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS BY RIGHTS





## Track Records of Countries

European Union	1 Positive	1 Negative
2 Record	1 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	1 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination

USA	14 Positive	9 Negative
23 Record	3 Freedom of Religion and Conscience	1 Freedom of Religion and Conscience
	1 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice	2 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice
	4 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	2 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination
	1 Equality Before the Law	3 Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture
	1 Right to Liberty and Security	1 Right to Liberty and Security
	1 Right to Participate in Cultural Life	
	1 Right to Life	
	1 Right to Respect for Family and Private Life	
	1 Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity)	

Germany	33 Positive	44 Negative
77 Record	5 Right to a Fair Trial	6 Right to a Fair Trial
	1 Right to Respect for Family and Private Life	1 Equality Before the Law
	3 Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity)	1 Legality of Crime and Punishment (Proportionality of Punishment)
	1 Right to Work	5 Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture
	1 Rights of the Child	1 Right to Health
	5 Freedom of Religion and Conscience	9 Freedom of Religion and Conscience
	1 Freedom of Opinion and Expression	1 Freedom of Opinion and Expression
	1 Freedom of Information	6 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice
	6 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	7 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination
	5 Right to Liberty and Security	5 Right to Liberty and Security
	1 Right to Asylum	1 Right to Life
	2 Right to Social Security and Social Relief	1 Right to Social Security and Social Relief
	1 Right to a Nationality (Political Rights)	

Albania	0 Positive	1 Negative
1 Record		1 Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture

Australia	2 Positive	1 Negative
3 Record	2 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	1 Right to Life

Austria	2 Positive	3 Negative
5 Record	1 Freedom of Religion and Conscience	1 Freedom of Religion and Conscience
	1 Right to Social Security and Social Relief	1 Right to Liberty and Security
		1 Freedom of Travel and Residence

Belgium	7 Positive	4 Negative
11 Record	1 Right to Respect for Family and Private Life	1 Right to a Fair Trial
	2 Freedom of Religion and Conscience	1 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination
	1 Legality of Crime and Punishment (Proportionality of Punishment)	1 Equality Before the Law
	1 Right to Liberty and Security	1 Freedom of Association and Assembly
	2 Right to Asylum	

United Kingdom	15 Positive	9 Negative
24 Record	1 Right to a Fair Trial	4 Freedom of Religion and Conscience
	7 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice	1 Freedom of Opinion and Expression
	6 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	1 Legality of Crime and Punishment (Proportionality of Punishment)
	1 Right to Participate in Cultural Life	1 Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture
		1 Freedom of Travel and Residence
		1 Right to Life

United Nations	2 Positive	0 Negative
2 Record	1 Freedom of Religion and Conscience	
	1 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	

Denmark	2 Positive	3 Negative
5 Record	2 Freedom of Religion and Conscience	1 Right to a Fair Trial
		2 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination

Finland	0 Positive	2 Negative
2 Record		2 Freedom of Association and Assembly

France	17 Positive	36 Negative
53 Record	5 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	10 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination
	4 Freedom of Religion and Conscience	11 Freedom of Religion and Conscience
	4 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice	1 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice
	4 Right to a Fair Trial	7 Freedom of Association and Assembly
		2 Freedom of Opinion and Expression
		2 Equality Before the Law
		1 Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture
		1 Right to Marry
		1 Freedom of Travel and Residence

Greek Cypriot Administration	0 Positive	3 Negative
3 Record		1 Freedom of Association and Assembly
		1 Freedom of Travel and Residence
		1 Right to a Nationality (Political Rights)

The Netherlands	14 Positive	15 Negative
29 Record	2 Freedom of Religion and Conscience	1 Freedom of Religion and Conscience
	1 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice	5 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice
	5 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	4 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination
	1 Right to Social Security and Social Relief	1 Right to Social Security and Social Relief
	3 Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity)	1 Right to Protection of Personal Data
	1 Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture	1 Freedom of Association and Assembly
	1 Prohibition on Aggravation	1 Right to Health
		1 Freedom of Travel and Residence

Spain	1 Positive	0 Negative
1 Record	1 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	

Sweden	4 Positive	10 Negative
14 Record	1 Freedom of Religion and Conscience	1 Freedom of Religion and Conscience
	1 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice	3 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice
	1 Right to a Fair Trial	6 Freedom of Association and Assembly
	1 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	

<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>0 Positive</b>	<b>1 Negative</b>
1 Record		1 Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture
<b>Italy</b>	<b>2 Positive</b>	<b>2 Negative</b>
4 Record	2 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	1 Freedom of Religion and Conscience
		1 Freedom of Association and Assembly
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1 Positive</b>	<b>3 Negative</b>
4 Record	1 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination	2 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination
		1 Freedom of Religion and Conscience
<b>Kosovo</b>	<b>0 Positive</b>	<b>1 Negative</b>
1 Record		1 Freedom of Religion and Conscience
<b>Hungary</b>	<b>Number of Positive Developments</b>	<b>Number of Negative Developments</b>
1 Record		1 Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination
<b>Norway</b>	<b>1 Positive</b>	<b>13 Negative</b>
14 Record	1 Legality of Crime and Punishment (Proportionality of Punishment)	13 Freedom of Association and Assembly
<b>Russia</b>	<b>1 Positive</b>	<b>0 Negative</b>
1 Record	1 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice	
<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>1 Positive</b>	<b>0 Negative</b>
1 Record	1 Right to Liberty and Security	
<b>Greece</b>	<b>0 Positive</b>	<b>7 Negative</b>
7 Record		1 Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity)
		1 Freedom of Religion and Conscience
		1 Right to Education
		1 Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice
		2 Equality Before the Law
		1 Freedom of Association and Assembly

# EUROPEAN UNION



## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 15.07.2022

### European Union

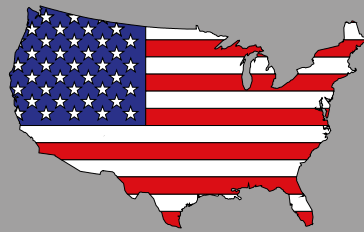
Rolling out by the Government of Hungary back in May, the resolution to sell fuel to vehicles with a foreign licence plate by 40% more expensively caused a stir in the EU Parliament. In a letter of formal notice submitted on June 9, the Parliament urged the Government of Hungary to rectify the resolution to comply with the European Union legislation and launched an infringement procedure against Hungary on July 15 after it received no reply to the letter.

## - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 22.09.2022

### European Union

Erasmus posted a poster to announce the 2022 winners of the European Innovative Teaching Awards (EITA) on its Twitter account. The poster that bears the logo of the European Commission drew adverse reactions from the French radical-right policy-makers as it was featuring a smiling student wearing a headscarf before Erasmus deleted the photo and released another poster instead.

**USA**



## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 07.01.2022

### Horn Lake

In early 2021, the Horn Lake city planning commission recommended denying the appeal for a plan to build a mosque, with the city council following the recommendation, citing "there are not enough water reserves for fire extinguishers at the site requested for the mosque, and traffic and noise are likely". The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a discrimination lawsuit against the city council in November 2021 on behalf of Abuirshaid and Elkhayat, claiming that the council denied a project based on anti-Muslim bias.

Judge Mills, who asked the city council to approve the mosque's construction plan, which she denied in early 2021, also instructed Horn Lake to act without unusual delays and unlawful discriminatory intent in any essential construction and permit appeals for the mosque.

Judge Mills also ordered the district administration to pay \$25,000 to Maher Abuirshaid and Riyadh Elkhayat, who want to build a mosque, and to bear the costs of their legal representation.

## - Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 16.01.2022

### New York

In the USA, a lawsuit was filed against a New York City police officer who beat a Muslim driver until he was unconscious, on the grounds that he had committed hate speech.

## + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 05.02.2022

### Michigan

The Michigan State Senate declared February 1 as the World Hijab Day thanks to the initiatives taken by Senator Stephanie Chang.

## - Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 22.02.2022

### Passaic

A person who attacked the muezzin of the Abu Bakr Mosque in Passaic County, New Jersey in December, was arrested on February 22, despite the video footage. The footage of the incident shows that the attacker called out to those inside the mosque, saying "not everyone living in the vicinity is Muslim" and repeatedly shouting and swearing that he does not want to hear the call to prayer.



## **- Right to Liberty and Security 27.02.2022**

### **Chicago**

An 18-year-old teenager was arrested on the grounds that he was planning to bomb mosques in the city. Many handmade bombs and layouts of some mosques were found in the young man's residence.

## **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 05.03.2022**

### **Washington**

A press release by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), which is the largest Muslim civil rights organization in the USA, stated that there is evidence of groups working under Israel's sponsorship to monitor Muslims by the FBI paid spies for the effort. The Constitution Court unanimously declared a resolution in favour of FBI as a result.

## **+ Equality Before the Law 06.03.2022**

### **Passaic**

2 Muslim people have been appointed as judges in the state of New Jersey, USA. One of them is Nadia Kahf, a Muslim who wears a hijab and will work for Passaic, which is home to Paterson, populated by Turks the most. Appointed by Governor Phil Murphy, the judges are set to take office in days to come.

## **+ Right to a Fair Trial 08.03.2022**

### **Los Angeles**

23-year-old William Stepanyan was sentenced to 5 years and 24-year-old Harutyun Harry Chalikyan to 15 months in prison for attacking the Istanbul Cafe restaurant in Beverly Hills area of Los Angeles in 2020. The court ruled that Stepanyan and Chalikyan, who attacked the Turkish restaurant, were out hunting Turkish nationals, and they have been ordered to pay \$21,200 to compensate for the damage they caused to the restaurant.

## **- Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 15.03.2022**

CIA turned out to have been exploiting Muslim prisoners as test subjects to teach correctional officers how to perform torture.

## + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 26.03.2022

### Delaware

The State of Delaware affirmed a bill to officially recognize the month of Ramadan across the state. The bill on the official recognition of Ramadan across Delaware, presented by Madinah Wilson-Anton, 30, who was elected as the first Muslim woman MP in the November 3, 2020 general election, as the main sponsor, was approved by 20 out of 21 members of the General Assembly. The month of Ramadan is now officially recognized as a sacred month.

## + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 27.03.2022

### Minneapolis

For the first time in U.S. history, the public call to prayer was legalized in Hamtramck, Michigan in 2004. The call to prayer is now going to be made through speakers in Minneapolis, too, joining the towns of Hamtramck, Dearborn, and Paterson.

## + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 28.03.2022

### Washington

Prosecutors demanded that two young persons be prosecuted for hate speech as part of a lawsuit filed against them in Washington, USA as they committed an Islamophobic attack against a Muslim child last year.

## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 30.03.2022

U.S. President Joe Biden signed the bill to criminalize lynching as a federal hate crime. The bill stipulates 30 years of imprisonment for those involved in lynching.

## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 21.04.2022

### New York

Hudson District Attorney Esther Suarez said in a statement that 76-year-old W. O. and her 73-year-old husband B. O. was on trial since 2018, being found guilty on 4 accounts of intimidation with bias. "Hudson County is one of the most diverse communities in the country," Suarez said. There is no room for hatred or discrimination here or anywhere" she added. It was reported that the accused couple verbally abused their Muslim neighbours repeatedly, insulting and calling them terrorists between 2016 and 2018, and from time to time they acted as if they had a gun in their hands. The case file also included details confirming that W.O. once made a sign of cutting toward the 3- and 7-year-old children of the Muslim family by bringing her finger around her throat in the form of a knife.

### **+ Right to Participate in Cultural Life 23.04.2022**

#### **Cliffside Park, Clifton, Lyndhurst, Morris County, North Arlington, Paterson**

April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day has now been affirmed as a bank holiday in 6 cities in the state of New Jersey, USA. On April 23, the Turkish flag will wave in the aforementioned cities and a public holiday will be declared for schools. The official statements made by the municipalities of Cliffside Park, Clifton, Lyndhurst, Morris County, North Arlington, Paterson in the state of New Jersey noted that the Turks living around significantly add to social and economic life, and the Turks maintain strong family ties and boast diverse cultural heritage in America.

### **+ Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity) 28.04.2022**

#### **Lowell**

A Turkish Books Section was rolled out at the Pollard Memorial Library in Lowell, Massachusetts, USA.

### **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 21.06.2022**

#### **Washington**

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a case in the state of Maine that religious schools cannot be excluded from public subsidies for special education. The court ruled that the "applicable law separating the state and the church" in the USA would not apply to this context, and that there was no case of discrimination of faith among taxpayers and therefore the taxes from them should be used equally.

### **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 30.06.2022**

Some black employees of Tesla accused some colleagues and managers of regularly resorting to racist speech and acts.

### **+ Right to Liberty and Security 24.07.2022**

#### **Lanham**

Local police of Maryland, the United States of America introduced weapons for the Muslim community and provided them with training in Diyanet Centre of America on how to protect themselves.

## - Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 27.07.2022

### Illinois

Footage of violence by police in the state of Illinois while detaining a 17-year-old teenager has emerged. The youth, who was punched to death by the police, had fractures on his face, skull and pelvis.

## - Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 02.08.2022

### Alaska

A legal action was filed on August 2, 2022 after two black Muslim passengers on an Alaska Airlines flight dating back to February 2020 were disembarked after another passenger complained that they were speaking and texting in Arabic.

## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 22.08.2022

### Malden

A Muslim student was expelled from the classroom of a school in Malden on the grounds that she was wearing a headscarf. A School Dress Code Form was sent to the household of an eighth grader studying at Mystic Valley Charter School. The headscarf worn by Muslim women was misspelt as "jihad" as the grounds for violating the dress code in the submitted form.

## + Right to Life 28.11.2022

### Buffalo

A white supremacist attacker who carried out a mass shooting at a Buffalo supermarket on May 14, 2022, pleaded guilty to murder and hate-motivated terrorism charges. The 19-year-old perpetrator faces life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, while the court is expected to deliver its final ruling in the next hearing.

**GERMANY**



### + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 10.01.2022

#### Stade

A special segment has been allocated for Muslims in the Campe cemetery of Stade in Lower Saxony, in cooperation with the local government and DITIB.

### + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 11.01.2022

#### Iserlohn

The NRW government took a major action following an attack on the Muslim cemetery in Iserlohn and decided to establish an office to prevent anti-Islamic actions.

### + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 11.01.2022

#### Federal

Under the Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG) to be introduced in Germany on February 1, the social networking companies will have to report their criminal content to the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA).

### + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 13.01.2022

#### Federal

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser stated that she will develop an action plan by mid-April against the far-right. She added: "We will do everything in our power to stop radicalization, infiltrate far-right networks and take away the arms of the extremists".

### - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 21.01.2022

#### Frankfurt

It was reported that the body of a 45-year-old Muslim man of Moroccan origin, who was treated at Sankt Katharinen Hospital in Frankfurt, was cremated after he passed away. It was noted that the hospital did so without informing his family.

### - Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 25.01.2022

#### Halle

A racist person who attacked the Islamic Cultural Centre in Halle with a rifle, was released by the court. A gun and a gas canister were found in the attacker's home, but the Police released him after interrogation, considering that the suspect did not need to be taken under custody based on the preliminary findings.

## + Right to Information 27.01.2022

### Federal

The German Federal Administrative Court affirmed the Ministry of Interior's ban on the acts of the PKK-linked Mesopotamia Publishing House and the company called MIR Multimedia.

## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 27.01.2022

### Munich

Reportedly, a professor working for the Munich University of Applied Sciences in Germany removed a Muslim student from an online exam on the grounds that she was wearing a headscarf. The student, who studied Mechanical Engineering at the university and made a statement on her social media account under the username Kübra, said that the teacher asked her to remove the headscarf in the said incident that took place on January 27. After the incident was reported, it turned out that another Muslim student from the same university had experienced a similar problem. In a statement made one month after the incident, the university administration apologized to both students and stated that removing her from the exam was intended to take precautions against fraud and the possibility of cheating, using headphones.

## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 30.01.2022

### Herne

A young woman, who applied for an internship to work for a hospital in Germany to pursue education, was removed from the hospital when she refused to take off her headscarf.

## + Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity) 05.01.2022

### Essen

An agreement was signed between Germany's North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Education and Duisburg Essen University to train teachers to teach Turkish in elementary schools.

## + Right to a Fair Trial 08.02.2022

### Berlin

A German federal court upheld the state court's sentence of imprisonment for the murder of Tahir Özbek, who was killed 8 years ago by the Hells Angels gang in a betting office in Berlin. The Federal Court also annulled the 2-year reduced sentence for Hells Angels members, unlike the state court. As part of the case where Kadir P., who is reported to be the leader of Hells Angels, was also tried as the instigator, the state court sentenced 8 Hells Angels members to life imprisonment in 2019.

## - Right to Liberty and Security 16.02.2022

### Hanau

It was reported that the families of those who died in an attack in Hanau were threatened by the terrorist's father, but the authorities did not take any actions in response.





## - Right to a Fair Trial 22.02.2022

### Berlin

A person suspected to have stabbed 18-year-old Kaan Hasan Önal to death in a fight in Berlin, has been released.

## - Right to Health 24.02.2022

### Stuttgart

M.A., who lost his 21-year-old daughter named M.A.A in a hospital she was admitted as an outpatient is set to take a legal action against the hospital administration on the grounds that her daughter died of negligence.



## **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 25.01.2022**

### **Oberhausen**

A 16-year-old Turkish person wearing a headscarf was denied from entering a gym in Oberhausen on the grounds that the headscarf she was wearing for exercising purposes, does not comply with its dress code.

## **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 28.02.2022**

### **Berlin**

For the first time in history, the German government appointed an official mandated to combat racism. Reem Alabali-Radovan, who is set to take office, currently serves as the Minister of State for Immigration and Integration.

## **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 02.03.2022**

### **Bochum**

In Germany, there was a reaction from the Student Representative of the Ruhr University Faculty of Medicine in Bochum to the Marien Hospital. The Representation Office released a letter after the undergraduates who wanted to do internship in the aforementioned hospital were denied by the hospital administration many times because of wearing a headscarf.

## **- Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 02.03.2022**

### **Schwerte**

A 77-year-old Turkish national named M. A. was attacked in front of a mosque in the town of Schwerte in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia. It turned out that the attacker, who is estimated to be 37 to 40 years old, attacked two other women on the same day, shouting: "You deserve this". Police said the attacker has a record of mental illness. The attacker was released without any action being taken.

## + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 08.03.2022

### Bremen

The foundation of the Kuba Mosque affiliated to the Islamic Community Milli Görüş (İGMG) was laid as part of a ceremony held in Bremen, Germany. The ground-breaking ceremony for the mosque, which will be built with double minarets and 7 domes, was attended by Bremen State Prime Minister and Metropolitan Mayor Dr. Andreas Bovenschulte, Turkish Consul General to Hannover Gül Özge Kaya, and members of the Jewish and Christian communities.



## - Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 13.03.2022

### Hamburg

Ç.G., who travelled to Hamburg, Germany on a tourist visa in 2002, has been ordered to be deported from the country since he was 16 years old. That is why, Ç.G, who was unable to attend school and was frequently dismissed from his jobs, sought psychological treatment for about a year for fear of being deported, and finally, the court ordered that the deportation order be stayed. Filing an appeal against the resolution, the Department of Foreigners started initiatives to deport him without waiting for the outcome of the case.

## + Right to Liberty and Security 15.03.2022

### Frankfurt

The Federal Police at Frankfurt Airport denied entry to the Spanish national called I.P. who carried a swastika flag and Hitler's book Mein Kampf in his suitcase. It was reported that I.P is one of the leading figures of the far-right Spanish group called "Bastion Frontal".

## - Right to a Fair Trial 21.03.2022

### Frankfurt

When Thomas Feltes, the expert witness heard by the Hessen State Parliamentary Commission investigating the Hanau terrorist attack that took place on February 19, 2020, in which nine immigrants were murdered, began to explain the failures of the police on the night of the attack, an attempt was made to stop him by a Ministry of Justice official who was not a member of the commission.

## - Right to Life 04.04.2022

### Berlin

Born in Berlin, Burak Bektaş fell victim to an unsolved murder 10 years ago at the age of 22. However, even after all this time, not even the slightest hint of the murder suspect has been found out. Initiatives to fight the far-right and the Burak Bektaş Murder Initiative are accusing the police and the prosecutor's office of not performing a sufficient inquiry to prove that the perpetrator is a right-wing extremist.



Anadolu Ajansı



## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 04.04.2022

### Hattingen

It was found out that fasting Muslim children studying at Heggerfeldschule primary school in Hattingen, Germany, were forced to break their fast on the grounds that they were "sick". Found out when the 11-year-old Turkish boy E.G., studying at Heggerfeldschule primary school told his parents about it, the case was explained by his teacher and school principal on the grounds of "kids fainting".

## - Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 12.04.2022

### Duisburg

13-year-old Emirhan Altınbaş was subjected to a harsh reaction by the police in Duisburg, a city of Dusseldorf, Germany. Altınbaş, who was reported for tearing up an election poster, was taken to a police station on Tuesday, April 12, after being pressed on his shoulder and handcuffed behind his back.

## + Right to Liberty and Security 11.05.2022

### Federal

Interior Minister's Spokesperson Maximilian Kall made a statement in Berlin regarding an appeal to remove the terrorist organization PKK from the list of banned organizations. Kall said: "In Germany, the PKK continues to be billed as a terrorist organization that promotes extremism. Courts have repeatedly confirmed it. Numerous legal procedures have been carried out in this regard. We do not see any reason for a change."

## - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 18.05.2022

### Federal

As part of the form called "Certificate", which is communicated to those who are taxpayers in Germany and yet resided in Türkiye for a long time, hold a residence in Türkiye for real estate or any other purpose, or have procedures to be carried out by the tax administration, it is noted that all taxable incomes acquired outside of Germany must be declared. Through the form, taxpayers are required to report their gross wages and any other income. Among other types of income are commercial earnings, income from securities, income from real estate, other earnings and revenues.

## **- Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 20.05.2022**

### **Cologne**

E. K., a Turkish citizen living in the city of Cologne, was subjected to a disproportionate response by the German police in his residence. E. K.'s nose was broken by police brutality during a raid conducted because of a toy gun he bought for his 9-year-old nephew.

## **- Right to a Fair Trial 23.05.2022**

The 86-year-old German driver ran a red light and caused the death of 4 and a half-year-old Melih. He got away with a fine of only EUR 5000 imposed by the court.

## **- Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 31.05.2022**

### **Berlin**

A Turkish family residing in Berlin repeatedly complained to the apartment administration and the police about their German neighbours, whom they had been subjected to systematic psychological violence and insults for 13 years. The neighbour, who increased the volume of attacks after the complaints were filed, threw explosives like torpedoes onto their balcony. While the prosecutor's office filed a public case, the case turned out to be inconclusive.

## **+ Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity) 31.05.2022**

The German State of Hessen has decided to include Turkish in the curriculum and teach it as a foreign language course, starting from the next academic year in schools.

## **+ Right to a Fair Trial 02.06.2022**

### **Kassel**

DITIB's Office of Hessen filed an appeal against the resolution of the Ministry of Education of Hessen to terminate the Islamic religion classes across the state and to unilaterally suspend the cooperation partnership. The ministry had previously challenged an order of the Wiesbaden Administrative Court, taking the case to the Kassel Higher Administrative Court, the state's top court.

Kassel Higher Administrative Court reaffirmed the order of the Wiesbaden Administrative Court in favour of DITIB's Office of Hessen. Kassel High Administrative Court found the cause of DITIB justified and ruled that it could continue to teach religion in the state.

### **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 16.06.2022**

The 16-year-old Muslim competitor was disqualified from a competition for wearing a headscarf in the championship organized by the International Budo Federation based in Germany, and attended by young people from various countries. When a referee and a coach backed the athlete, who was disqualified on the grounds of the headscarf being unsafe, the Federation readmitted the athlete on the condition that she wears a helmet and does not rank at all.

### **- Right to Social Security and Social Relief 16.06.2022**

#### **Federal**

The Brandeilig Initiative Against Mosque Attacks operating under the body of the The Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR) drew attention to the fact that the congregation was left alone with the damage caused after the attacks. The Initiative reported that mosque administrators had to repair the damage by their own means (77%) because insurance companies did not cover the costs. A very little part of it was covered by building insurance.

### **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 18.07.2022**

#### **Münster**

It was reported that racist news reports, photos, and videos were posted in a racist chat group, which included 20 special operations police officers, aged between 39 and 56, affiliated with the Münster City Police Department. It was noted that disciplinary and criminal investigations have been launched against 8 police officers.

### **- Right to Liberty and Security 20.07.2022**

#### **Potsdam**

In Germany, a chat application that gathers young people under the age of 18 has been uncovered. It was found out that the leader of the group, Lukas F., who was infiltrated by journalists working for Welt am Sonntag, Politico and Insider, was planning to stage an armed attack and start a race war around the world. It was reported that Lukas F. and his neo-Nazi friends took over a facility used by the former Nazi Army near Potsdam as a venue. It was found out that the racist youngsters at the facility performed armed drills for terrorist attacks, tried to acquire 3D printers to make bombs and weapons, and made death lists. More than 98,000 messages were reviewed in a telegram chat group of Lukas F., who was reported to be linked with racists from all over Europe. It was reported that Lukas F., who is of Belarusian origin, was also a member of the Neo-Nazi network called 'Fire War Division'.

## - Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 21.07.2022

### **Bielefeld**

While 34-year-old F. A., who resides in the city of Bielefeld, was taken under custody on suspicion of involvement in a crime, a disproportionate response and police brutality resulted in a fractured skull, broken nose and deep wounds in her body.

## - Right to Liberty and Security 25.07.2022

### **Federal**

It was found out that four people with far-right tendencies, who were caught red handed while planning to kidnap German Health Minister Karl Lauterbach, were about to stage a political coup in the country.

## - Right to Liberty and Security 30.07.2022

### **Frankfurt**

The residences of 5 police officers working for the Frankfurt Police Department in Germany were searched for their posts in online chat groups. In a joint statement made by the Frankfurt Prosecutor's Office and the Hessen Police Department, it was noted that one of the 4 police officers whose residence were searched was investigated for using symbols of unconstitutional organizations, and three of them on charges of "preventing punishment in line of duty".

## + Right to Liberty and Security 04.08.2022

### **Munich**

The members of the organization called 'Blood & Honor', which was formed by far-right neo-Nazis who kept their operations on even though it was officially banned by the Federal Ministry of Interior in 2000, were sentenced to imprisonment and fines. During the final hearing held at the Munich State Court, 9 Neonazis were sentenced to 8 months to 1 year 10 months in prison on the grounds that they "failed to comply with the ban on association" and "exacerbated hatred by spreading far-right views". However, the prison sentences given were suspended for 3 years. The same defendants were also fined for 80 to 160 days. During the hearings held in Munich, it was also found out that the defendants attempted to open affiliates of the 'Blood & Honor' organization in the states of Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg, and Thuringia.



## + Right to Social Security and Social Relief 04.08.2022

### Federal

The German Constitutional Court ruled that foreigners with temporary status were unjustly exempted from child benefit. The Court reminded families from non-EU countries that they were not paid child benefit between 2006 and 2020 under the applicable provision. Under the said provision, which was found to be unconstitutional and declared null and void, child benefit was granted for families if the conditions for staying in the country for three years, employment, and adaptation were met.

## - Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 09.08.2022

### Dortmund

In Dortmund, a 16-year-old refugee from Senegal was shot dead in six body parts with a machine gun after displaying a knife to the police. It turned out that the police did not try to stop Mohamed D. with electroshock and tear gas, unlike they reported, but opened fire directly on the young man.

## + Right to Liberty and Security 12.08.2022

### Hanau

The father of a far-right assassin, who murdered 9 people in the racist attacks he carried out in Hanau, Germany on February 19, 2020, was fined a total of 4800 Euros by the Hanau State Court on Monday, September 12 for defamation in two ongoing cases. Thus, the Court dismissed the defendant's appeal against the order of the Hanau Court of First Instance in both cases. For the grounds of the ruling, the Chief Judge opined in both cases that the interests of the victims of the insults should take precedence over the principle of freedom of expression.

## - Equality Before the Law 13.08.2022

### Potsdam

Under new tariffs introduced by an electricity company, Christian consumers were granted a discount. The company concluded that the discounted electricity price for Protestant Christians is approximately 30 cents, and 25.28 for Catholics, and 39.7 cents per kilowatt-hour for non-Christian consumers. The electricity company, which grants privileges to church members, announced that a similar type of pricing is set to be adopted for gas prices.

## + Freedom of Opinion and Expression 15.08.2022

### Karlsruhe

In a post on his personal Twitter account, heart surgeon Dr. Metin Çakır, described homosexuality as a "disease" and was dismissed from his position at the Helios Clinic in Karlsruhe, where he worked. Dr. Çakır won the case at the Karlsruhe Labour Court, whereupon the hospital took it to a higher court. The Mannheim Higher Labour Court also found Dr. Çakır's cause justified and ruled that he return to work. The court ruled that the termination of the employment contract was unlawful.

## + Right to a Fair Trial 07.09.2022

### Berlin

The Labour Court in Berlin ruled that the Palestinian journalist Farah Maraqa, whom Deutsche Welle (DW) dismissed for alleged anti-Semitism, was unfairly dismissed.

## - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 09.09.2022

### Berlin

An act of xenophobia committed by police during a raid in Berlin, the capital of Germany, was uncovered in a video posted on social media, and the images aroused great public repercussions. The incident, which was videotaped, took place during a police operation on a Berlin residence on 9th of September. As seen on video, one of the police officers inflicted physical violence and racist remarks towards a Syrian family, whose house was raided. The police officer who put the Syrian father to the ground said: "This is my country. You are a guest here!" during his disproportionate physical response involving remarks of discrimination and xenophobia.



## - Right to a Fair Trial 18.09.2022

### Federal

An order of non-prosecution was given in an investigation launched against 5 people suspected of aiding and abetting the National Socialist Underground (NSU) terrorist organization, which murdered 10 people, 8 of whom were Turkish. The Federal Attorney General's Office put a stop to investigating Max-Florian B, Mandy S, Thomas M, Matthias D., and Jan W. It was alleged that the people in question were aware of the actions of NSU member terrorists Uwe Böhnhardt, Uwe Mundlos, and Beate Zschaepe, and provided fake IDs and weapons, signed lease agreements, and went underground to hide them. It was noted that the prosecutor's office did not see enough suspicion about the suspects and that the findings obtained as part of the preliminary investigation were not sufficient for the indictment and therefore ruled not to prosecute the suspects.

## + Right to a Fair Trial 19.09.2022

### Koblenz

A legal action was filed in Koblenz, Germany against Özgür A., a member of the terrorist organization PKK, on charges of membership to the organization and serving as an administrator. It was reported that Özgür A was a so-called regional manager in Hamburg, Berlin, Saarland, and Rhineland-Pfalz.

## + Right to Work 27.09.2022

### Hannover

Hannover Metropolitan Municipality decided to impose a quota for immigrants to work for the municipality. Under the new imposition, 17 percent of the municipal staff members will have a migrant background by 2026. To achieve the objective, 30 percent of new recruits will have to have an immigrant background.

## + Rights of the Child 30.09.2022

### Düsseldorf

A Turkish couple, whose 7-month-old baby was adopted by a gay foster family on May 30, 2022, contacted the Consulate General of Düsseldorf regarding the matter. Upon the initiatives of the Düsseldorf Family and Social Services Attaché of the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the infant was taken away from the homosexual couple 3 months later on September 30, and delivered to a Turkish foster family.

## + Right to Social Security and Social Relief 03.10.2022

### Federal

Starting from 1 January 2023, low-income pensioners and those who own a house and yet have a low salary will each receive a residence support allowance of 370 Euros per month in Germany. Nearly 90 percent of Turkish pensioners in Germany will be beneficiaries accordingly. Families with many children also deserve some assistance.

## - Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 04.10.2022

### Bavaria

The NSU Inquiry Commission of the Bavarian State Assembly concluded that the Bavarian State Ministry of Justice shredded some files that should have been archived. It was found out that among the files shredded by the State Department of Justice were also the files of informants.

## + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 14.10.2022

### Cologne

Rolled out as a pilot project by the Municipality of Cologne, calls to prayer will now be made openly for 5 minutes between 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays. The municipality of Cologne stipulates that calls to prayer shall not be made at a decibel higher than 60.

## - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 17.10.2022

### Berlin

A complaint about forcing the former AfD judge Birgit Malsack-Winkemann to retire due to her far-right political remarks and other statements delivered in the Bundestag was heard by the Berlin Administrative Court. The Administrative Court ruled that the former judge could return to work. While the court denied the Senate's appeal for retirement, it drew attention to the fact that any remarks made in the Bundestag are free and safeguarded under the Constitution. In its ruling, the court emphasized that the remarks made in the Parliament cannot lead to any official sanction. For this reason, it was noted that the remarks made in the Parliament, which were cited as the grounds for the appeal of the Justice Senate, could not be taken into consideration for proceedings.

## - Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice

19.10.2022

### Federal

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has ruled that Germany violated the ECtHR by denying an independent and effective investigation into a racist practice of the police force. The ruling came after a German citizen of Indian origin, who was a victim of racism, filed an appeal in the ECtHR and after four years of court proceedings.

In its ruling where it pointed to the fact that the German authorities rejected to launch an independent and effective investigation into racial profiling by the police is a violation of the ECHR, the ECtHR noted: "The state authorities have failed to fulfil their mandate to make all reasonable efforts to see if any discriminatory act played a role in ID checks or not, and thus have not conducted an effective investigation."

## + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 19.10.2022

### Nürnberg

Salim Kior, a Western Thracian Turk residing in the town of Heroldsberg in Nuremberg, Germany, became the first Muslim to be buried without a coffin in the state. The right of burial in a shroud, which was acknowledged in previous years, has been put into practice.

## - Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice

21.10.2022

### Hanau

It was found out that video footage from a police helicopter regarding a terrorist attack that took place in Hanau, Germany, was not submitted to the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission.

## + Right to a Fair Trial 24.10.2022

### Karlsruhe

Beate Zschäepe, a member of the National Socialist Underground Organization (NSU), who murdered 10 people, 8 of them Turks, carried out two bombing attacks and numerous bank robberies between 2000 and 2007, alleged that it could not be proven that she was present in the scenes of crime where the murders were committed, and filed an appeal against the life sentence given by Munich State High Court. The Federal Constitutional Court (BGH), which heard Zschäepe's appeal, reaffirmed the order of the Munich State Higher Court, which had sentenced her to life imprisonment in 2018 after more than 5 years and more than 400 hearings. BGH judges stood by the order, which was approved in 2021, and denied the appeal, unanimously noting that the rights of the racist terrorist Beate Zschäepe had not been violated.

## + Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity) 25.10.2022

### Blumberg

The legal dispute between a student's parents and the school administration, which started when the student was punished by his teacher for speaking Turkish in the schoolyard in Germany, ended with the school administration's pre-trial deal with the parents.

The incident took place July 8, 2020, when a 9-year-old third-grade student at a school in the town of Blumberg was given an assignment as a form of punishment by his teacher for speaking Turkish with his friend in the schoolyard during a recess.

## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 26.10.2022

### Herne

The application of a 14-year-old girl pursuing mandatory internship in a Protestant hospital in the town of Herne was denied by the hospital administration because she wears a headscarf.

## + Right to Respect for Family and Private Life 27.10.2022

### Federal

In Germany, the government has put an end to delays in and indirect barriers to family reunification, which has long been criticized by the Turkish community because of the language testing. Germany announced that it will fulfil the requirements of the orders of the European Court of Justice concerning family reunification "as soon as possible".

## + Right to a Nationality (Political Rights) 01.11.2022

### Federal

A year after a coalition government was formed in Germany, the right to dual citizenship was brought up in the agenda. A discussion was held over the article of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), Green Party and Free Democratic Party (FDP) government's program that will grant dual citizenship rights to immigrants. The partners agreed to bring the bill to parliament. Under the bill, which is expected to be discussed in the Parliament, dual citizenship will be allowed, and the transition to German citizenship will be facilitated, and the obligation to live in the country for 8 years will be reduced to 5 years. For those who are good at adaptation, the term will be reduced to 3 years.

## **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 04.11.2022**

### **Erfurt**

A. V. (29), who is a board member and youth representative of Erfurt Police Sports Union (PSV) strongly reacted when he came across with a 37-year-old boxing trainer's racist remarks about Muslims and foreigners in a chat group, and filed a complaint in the board. Following his complaint, the club imposed a ban on A.V., which exposed the case of racism.

## **- Right to a Fair Trial 05.11.2022**

### **Federal**

Carsten S., who provided the racist NSU terrorists with the weapons for murders, won the legal action he filed against the use of intelligence about himself in court.

## **- Legality of Crime and Punishment (Proportionality of Punishment) 06.11.2022**

### **Mülheim**

The German Police went to the ATIB Mülheim Cultural Centre on Friday and wanted to search for an armed person. The police officers, who did burst with a civilian vehicle, quickly stopped near three young people waiting in front of the association building with their vehicle. The fact that the police officers headed in the direction of the young people with guns pulled caused an action-packed time in the ATIB Mülheim Cultural Centre. One of the young people ran away from the scene in the face of the harsh reaction of the armed police in plain clothes. The police officers, who put the two young people in the ground even though they had not committed any crime, handcuffed them behind their back, and wanted to search every floor of the building with a large number of special police forces who soon arrived as a backup team. In the meantime, the entrance doors of some halls were shattered.

## **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 07.11.2022**

### **Koblenz**

The Koblenz Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation against more than 50 suspects, including security guards, on the grounds that they posted criminal content in various chat groups on their mobile phones.

## **- Right to a Fair Trial 15.11.2022**

### **Stuttgart**

The number of suspects in the case of the terrorist organization called Somogyni, which was uncovered while planning to raid mosques and stage a major terrorist attack against Muslims, decreased from 12 to 4. During the 99th hearing, the Stuttgart Higher Regional Court ruled that former police officers named Thorsten W. and Marcel W. be released. The two defendants were released from prison yesterday. The court took into account the time the defendants did in prison after their arrest on February 14, 2020, and delivered the ruling accordingly.



## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 15.11.2022

### Dresden

The far-right AfD party, which is renowned for its anti-Islam views in Germany, has drawn up a bill to impose a headscarf ban on students in the state of Saxony.

## + Right to Liberty and Security 18.11.2022

### Frankfurt

Alexander Horst M., who sent 81 threatening letters on individual occasions under the name of NSU 2.0 to celebrities including lawyer Seda Başay Yıldız, was sentenced to 5 years and 10 months in prison in Germany.

## - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 29.11.2022

### Federal

The racist remarks of former football player Sandro Wagner, who served as a commentator for ZDF television network during the World Cup match of the German national team against Spain, attracted harsh criticism. Wagner, the former player of Bayern Munich and the national team, said: "I thought the fans behind the goal were German. "When I looked more closely, I realized that there were Qataris wearing bathrobes."

## + Right to Asylum 03.12.2022

### Federal

A bill, which will expedite asylum procedures in Germany, was passed by the parliament with the votes of the coalition consisting of the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD), the Greens, and the Free Democratic Party (FDP). Christian Union parties, Left Party and Alternative for Germany (AfD) party voted against the bill. The bill stipulates that the asylum procedures shall be completed in no more than six months. However, it will be possible to extend this period of time up to 18 months if it can be justified.

One of the most interesting articles of the bill was the abolition of the so-called regular review carried out by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).



## - Right to Liberty and Security 07.12.2022

### Federal

Minister of Justice Buschmann announced that 25 members of the far-right terrorist group "Reichsbürger (Reich Citizens)" were detained in a raid carried out by over 3,000 security forces in 11 regions of Germany. Minister Buschmann said: "We suspect that an armed attack on the constitutional bodies was in plans and these people were plotting to seize the state power and one of the plans was to occupy the Bundestag with weapons."

## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 08.12.2022

### Federal

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser announced that the government intends to reduce the influence of foreign imams in mosques. Faeser, who hosted the Islamic Conference held in Berlin, said: "I intend to gradually reduce the number of imams assigned by other states to serve in Germany. The goal is to put an end to it. This especially concerns Türkiye".

## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 10.12.2022

### Düsseldorf

In Düsseldorf, the capital of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, a woman, who served as an honorary member of a social court, was dismissed for wearing a headscarf. The 38th Chamber of the Düsseldorf Social Court predicated the dismissal of the headscarf-wearing judge on wearing a distinctive symbol or dress.

## - Freedom of Opinion and Expression 10.12.2022

A German TV network fired one of its presenters, who attended a festival in the West Bank. The German kids' network Kika fired one of its presenters named Matondo Castlo for attending an anti-occupation festival called "Ferha Youth" held in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. As reported by Palestine-based Quds News, Castlo, who attended the festival held in the West Bank, was dismissed from his job in Kika, where he worked, following a campaign intended to help Palestinian children, whose lives are adversely affected by the Israeli occupation.

## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 14.12.2022

### Hannover

A. S., who lived in Germany, passed away on December 14 in Hannover's MHH Hospital Emergency Service. It turned out that S.'s funeral was mixed with the funeral of a German during the preparations to be washed and shrouded in accordance with Islamic methods. An investigation has been launched into the incident.

# ALBANIA



## - Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 16.05.2022

### Tirana

B.L., who serves as the Imam of Dine Hoxha Mosque in Tirana, pressed charges against the Anti-Terrorism Police Force for inflicting violence and putting psychological pressure, bringing the case up for the public. The Imam posted the content of the case with a silent video, and said that an official of the Anti-Terrorism Police along with the mufti of Tirana put psychological pressure on a young person named K.J, one of the mosque officers, through physical acts and humiliating remarks. According to the reports, the Anti-Terrorism Police B.L burst into the mosque to collect footage of B.L. regarding some brochures disseminated by some young people in the mosque. However, L. reacted rudely to J. when he could not get hands on the footage because he came long after the incident and the footage was being automatically deleted every 20 days, inflicting psychological violence on him through remarks and physical acts. He also threatened: "We know how to kick you out of here." No investigation has been launched about the incident.

# AUSTRALIA



### **- Right to Life 16.06.2022**

Refugee Action Coalition reported that a 32-year-old Turkish national was killed in a detention centre in western Australia last night.

### **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 21.06.2022**

#### **Victoria**

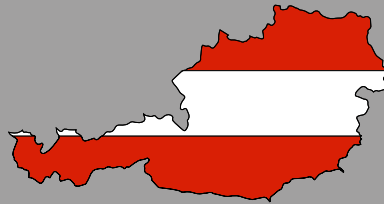
The Parliament in the State of Victoria, Australia passed a bill to ban the public display of Nazi symbols. According to the bill, which will come into effect after 6 months, public use of the swastika and other hate symbols may result in a fine of AUD 22,000 and/or 12 months in prison.

### **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 05.10.2022**

#### **Sydney**

A man making a Nazi salute during the Australian Cup final held in Sydney, Australia has been banned for life from going to stadiums.

# AUSTRIA



### **- Freedom of Religion and Conscience 31.01.2022**

During the coalition discussions of the Greens Party backed mostly by Muslims and foreigners in Austria, some exchanges of correspondence came out, pointing to promoting a bill to ban teachers from wearing a headscarf in exchange for the appointment of some figures with ties to the party in some public agencies.

### **- Right to Liberty and Security 10.02.2022**

The Personal Data Protection Authority denied an appeal of the Muslim Youth Austria (MJÖ) for the breach of personal data concerning the Islamic Map application. As noted in the justified resolution of the authority "freedom of science and Freedom of Opinion outweighs the privacy of personal data in this case"

### **- Freedom of Travel and Residence 15.03.2022**

A Turkish citizen living in Austria applied for a family reunification permit with his wife. Despite all paperwork being delivered and there was no problem, the permit was not allowed.

### **+ Freedom of Religion and Conscience 19.05.2022**

Austria has decided to remove the ban on wearing a headscarf, which was in place for nearly 3 years for students in pre-schools.

### **+ Right to Social Security and Social Relief 17.06.2022**

The European Court of Justice (CJEU) ruled that Austria's child benefit code violates the EU legislation (C-328/20). The CJEU ruled that it is unacceptable for migrant workers from other EU countries to have their payments made based on the cost of living in the country of origin. The ruling stipulates that assistance for migrant workers shall be the same as for citizens.

# BELGIUM





## - Right to a Fair Trial 10.02.2022

### Antwerp

The Antwerp Court of Appeals found the banner that reads "Stop Islamization" lawful, on the grounds that it was not racist and xenophobic and was "merely a printed material expressing a point of view". The banner, which is the subject of a legal action, was unfurled during a protest of the far-right in the town of Mechelen last year. The judge of the Mechelen court billed the banner as a "horrible image" that incited hatred and discrimination, and those who displayed the banner were sentenced to 6 months in prison and a heavy fine.

## + Right to Liberty and Security 13.05.2022

### Brussels

The visit of the far-right leaders of the Netherlands and Belgium to Sint-Jans-Molenbeek in Brussels, which is largely populated by Muslim immigrants, to protest Islamization has been banned because of security concerns.

## + Right to Asylum 07.06.2022

### Brussels

The Brussels Labour Court ruled that Belgian Minister of State for Asylum and Immigration, Sammy Mahdi, violated the right to shelter of asylum seekers in a deliberate, coordinated, and sustainable manner. The prosecutor's office launched an investigation into whether the government had committed a crime by the violation.



### + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 17.06.2022

#### Brussels

The Parliament of Brussels, the capital town of Belgium, denied a bill that prohibits halal slaughter with 38 votes to 42.

### - Freedom of Association and Assembly 26.07.2022

#### Brussels

Some supporters of the terrorist organization YPG/PKK staged a protest in Brussels, the capital of Belgium. Nearly 100 supporters of the terrorist organization gathered in Schuman Square in front of the European Commission and Council buildings and disseminated leaflets with statements that defame Türkiye. YPG/PKK supporters chanted slogans supporting the terrorist organization and its ringleader, Abdullah Öcalan.



### - Equality Before the Law 15.09.2022

#### Brussels

Belgian Minister of Justice, Vincent Van Quickenborne, said that he will remove the official recognition of the Islamic Representation Council, which represents the Muslim community in Belgium. Addressing the Belgian public broadcaster's radio network, Van Quickenborne said he had launched the necessary legal procedures.

### + Right to Respect for Family and Private Life 08.11.2022

#### Meulebeke

The bodies of Turkish brothers named U.A. and S.A. who were murdered on September 8, 2010 in the town of Meulebeke in the Flemish region of Belgium had been kept in a morgue for 937 days on the grounds that the prosecutor's office continues to investigate the case. The brothers' mother, N.A. and father V. A. asked to take their bodies to Emirdağ of Afyonkarahisar for burial, and they went to court in Belgium and then filed a legal action at the ECtHR because they were not allowed to do so. Upon the unanimous order of the court, it was ruled that the Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which stipulates the right to respect for private and family life, and the Article 9, which stipulates the Freedom of Opinion, conscience and religion, have been violated. The ECtHR ruled that Belgium shall pay the family 10 thousand Euros for non-pecuniary damages and 3460 Euros for expenses.

## + Legality of Crime and Punishment (Proportionality of Punishment) 09.11.2022

The Belgian Federal Government agreed on a bill to be submitted to the parliament for a new penal code. The new bill with over 1000 pages will replace the 150-year-old law. Under the new law, there will be no distinctions such as misdemeanour and offence as only offences will be committed. The offences will be committed under 8 categories and the sentences will be raised from bottom to top. Sentences for domestic violence and violence against healthcare professionals will also be raised. The stance of the law on terrorism activities is extremely harsh. Preparations and training for terrorism activities will also be punished more harshly. Those who glorify terrorism especially online shall be sentenced to up to 15 years of imprisonment.

## + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 10.11.2022

### Brussels

A bill submitted by the right-wing liberal party MR and the right-centre DéFI (the party that proposed the ban on halal slaughter in Brussels) to ban all sorts of religious symbols in public has been denied by the parliamentary commission. The bill is expected to be denied by the general assembly as well.

## + Right to Asylum 01.12.2022

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has passed a cautionary judgement against Belgium for its failure to provide shelter to 160 male asylum seekers requesting international protection. As noted in a statement made by the ECtHR, 832 people, 58 of whom were unaccompanied minors, have been seeking protection since September, and 160 of them who filed a legal action in the Brussels labour court won their cases. It was also noted that the Belgian state still does not implement the orders given by the Brussels labour court and the ECtHR has passed a cautionary judgement against Belgium due to hundreds of appeals filed on 31st of October, 15th of November, 21st of November and 1st of December.

### **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 03.12.2022**

Belgian policy-makers are about to introduce discriminatory practices after the events that broke out during the victory celebrations of Moroccan fans in Belgium after the World Cup games held in Qatar. Georges-Louis Bouchez, Head of the MR Party and a partner in the Federal Government, proposed "withdrawing social benefits for the rebels". To this end, the party officials announced that they are making plans to stop some repeat offenders' access to social benefits, amend the penal code, ban demonstrations in some cases, and punish any case of disrespect to the Belgian flag.

In his speech addressing the Federal Parliament, Minister of Justice Vincent Van Quickenborne suggested that a list of problematic young people should be created and the family benefits received by their parents should be stopped to prevent similar cases. The suggestion of the Minister was applauded only by members of the far-right party Vlaams Belang.

Since the amendments proposed by the Minister are beyond the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, such a bill is not expected to be submitted to the Federal Parliament. However, the Minister announced that he would propose a new system to the government to ensure that people who committed certain offences are prosecuted more expeditiously.

# UNITED KINGDOM





### - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 23.01.2022

Nusrat Ghani, a member of the Conservative Party in the UK, made a statement in February 2020 regarding his dismissal from his position as the minister of state in charge of aviation and maritime transport. He said that he was dismissed from his post because his being a Muslim made his colleagues uncomfortable.

### + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 27.01.2022

The Court of Appeals in the UK reaffirmed the fines imposed on the persons who were carrying rags that symbolize the PKK terrorist organization during a protest.

### + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 05.02.2022

#### Chester

A racist young person, who insulted a taxi driver of Pakistani origin, was not sentenced to imprisonment while he was fined for 850 pounds. 19 year-old perpetrator named E.W. Admitted his guilt in the Chester Magistrate's Court.

### - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 01.03.2022

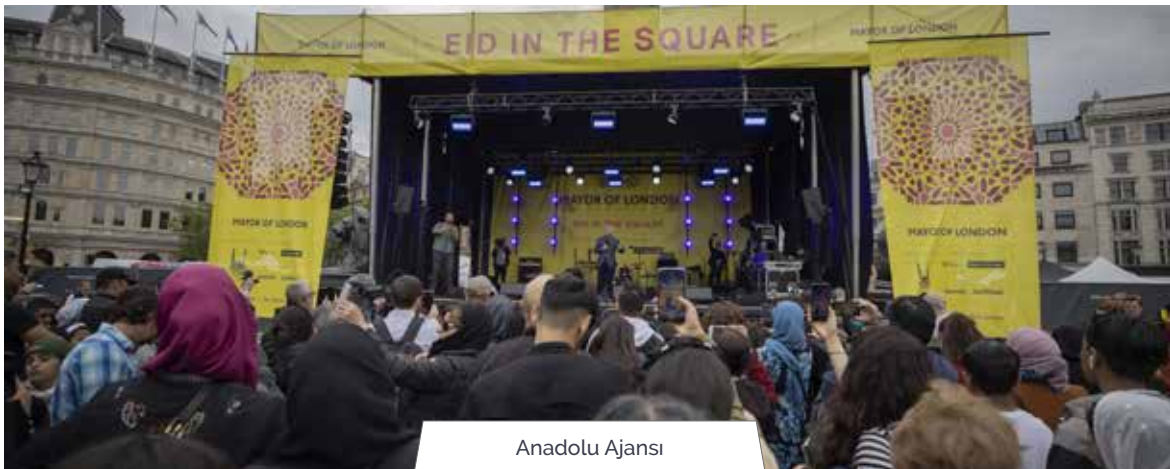
#### Birmingham

A teacher of Hodge Hill College stopped a 10th-grade Muslim teenager from completing his prayer on Tuesday. The students, the majority of whom are Muslims, complained that there is no place of prayer for them.

### + Right to Participate in Cultural Life 23.03.2022

#### London

The City of London, which is getting ready for a massive Ramadan celebration on May 7 in Trafalgar Square, one of the most major landmarks of England, called for active participation of Turkish and the Turkish Cypriot communities.



Anadolu Ajansı

## + Right to a Fair Trial 01.04.2022

### Reading

A woman who shouted "Kill all Muslims", called other passengers "terrorists" and threatened a train controller was sentenced to over six months of imprisonment.

## - Freedom of Travel and Residence 28.04.2022

The Bill on Citizenship and Borders is currently being debated in the parliament for its final phases. The Controversial Article 9, which had been denied by the House of Lords but yet to be agreed on by lawmakers, allows the Home Office to secretly strip people of citizenship without informing them first.

## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 18.05.2022

### West Bromwich

Children at the Ryders Green Primary School in West Bromwich, England were fed pork during a lunch break even though 70 percent of the students are Muslims.

## + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 09.06.2022

### Stoke-on-Trent

A doctor working for Royal Stoke University Hospital repeatedly asked a patient to take off her veil to better communicate with the patient. The request was repeated although she said that she did not want to take off the veil for religious reasons. In the case that went to the court, the Court ruled that the woman spoke English very well. She made it clear that she did not want to take it off and she said that there was no need to do that during the consultation.

It was also concluded that Wolweson had not taken any action to rectify the situation and that the three repeated requests to take off her veil further aggravated the patient's distress."



### - Freedom of Opinion and Expression 11.06.2022

The UK government dismissed Qari Asim, an Independent Consultant and Deputy Head of the British Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, for criticizing the movie "The Lady of Heaven", which links major Islamic historical figures to ISIS.

"This outright participation in a campaign to restrict freedom of expression is incompatible with the role of a government adviser," the open letter sent to Asim read.

### + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 13.06.2022

#### Kensington

The status of Holland Park School in Kensington has been downgraded from 'excellent' to 'unacceptable' by the British Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) due to the school's orientation towards a racist and Islamophobic culture.

An inquiry revealed that insulting and shouting in public serves as a behavioural policy, and that some students and teachers face gender-based discrimination, Islamophobia, and racism.

### - Right to Life 18.06.2022

#### Tottenham

Ali Baygören, a 17-year-old Turkish national, was stabbed to death in Tottenham.

### + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 25.06.2022

#### London

An investigation was launched after a Muslim mother faced discrimination due to her religious outlook during her visit to the British Museum with her young daughter on June 25, 2022, and the museum officials issued an apology.

### - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 06.07.2022

#### Birmingham

Two Muslim students of Hollyfield Primary School were forced to eat pork.

## **- Legality of Crime and Punishment (Proportionality of Punishment) 15.07.2022**

### **London**

A Muslim man who took his disabled father to a date in central London and legally parked his car near a tube station with a clearly visible disability badge on his windshield was reported as a suspect because of the way he looked. When he returned to his car, he saw some officers strip the area to access the trunk and stage a controlled explosion in the vehicle.

## **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 02.08.2022**

### **Walsall**

A racist nurse who posted discriminatory materials and made marginalizing statements on social media was fired. S. H. 's posts included racist remarks such as "immigrants and Asian men commit acid attacks and then cry without taking responsibility".

## **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 22.08.2022**

### **Ipswich**

Ipswich City Council Member S.F. has been dismissed from the local Conservative Party for his anti-Muslim, provocative, and discriminatory social media posts. S.F. tweeted: "I don't believe Islam should be allowed in the UK", "Islam does not have any room for free speech" and "Islam is being allowed to gain ground in the UK". He called for a ban on halal and kosher slaughter, a complete ban on immigration, and conspiracies on labelling halal meat. He also said: "An army largely consisting of Muslims is entering our country every hour! Since 2021, legions of 40,000 healthy, adult, young men have travelled from different cultures and countries we don't know about! Remember, our own army is just under 80,000 strong. Our National Security is in Great Danger!"

## **+ Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 07.09.2022**

### **Derby**

A racist youngster who shouted "F.ck off, you Paki" and harassed a taxi driver was sentenced to community service in detention as per the order of the Derby Royal Court. The racist perpetrator admitted his guilt in the hearing.

## + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice

13.09.2022

### Cardiff

F.A. aged 38 who serves as a cleaning staff member for the Nationwide Building Society, was racially assaulted, being referred to as a "cheeky monkey" and "bogeyman" for being black and Somalian. The Labour Court ordered that F.A. be awarded compensation for the discrimination.

## + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice

12.10.2022

### Manchester

A racist who brutally assaulted a Muslim taxi driver was sentenced to 20 months in prison. The 30-year-old assailant D.P.' called the taxi driver M.Z. "Paki" and made verbal and physical racist attacks, mocking the traditional clothes he was wearing at the time. The assailant also fractured the taxi driver's cheekbone.

## + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice

25.10.2022

### Isle of Wight

Heard in an Isle of Wight court, a 44-year-old individual admitted posing racist and sexual threats and harassing a group of Muslim women.

## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 26.10.2022

### Derby

In 2018, a Medical Court with Special Powers imposed a 9-month suspension from the profession on a physician who insisted on removing the veil of a Muslim female patient without providing any medical justification.

## - Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 03.11.2022

### South Kensington

According to the official data obtained by the BBC from the UK's Home Office under the "Freedom of Information Act", it was stated the hundreds of irregularigrants are held illegally in immigration removal centre.

## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 30.11.2022

### Derbyshire

19-year-old Daniel Harris was found guilty of encouraging people for terrorism purposes after releasing far-right videos online in early 2022.

**UNITED  
NATIONS**



### + **Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 15.03.2022**

The General Assembly of the United Nations has declared March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

### + **Freedom of Religion and Conscience 06.08.2022**

In a written statement, the UN Human Rights Committee (OHCHR) noted that France's ban on a Muslim woman wearing a headscarf from working in a school violated "the international convention on civil and political rights".

The committee added that the statement in question was made based on a review of an appeal filed by a French Muslim woman in 2016.

In a petition filed by a Muslim woman, it was reported that Naima Mezhud was enrolled in a vocational training course at the Lycée Langevin Wallon public school in Paris in 2010 and passed all the phases, including an interview, and yet the school principal later informed her that she could not attend the classes wearing a headscarf.

# DENMARK



### **+ Freedom of Religion and Conscience 15.01.2022**

The Danish Board of Equal Treatment ruled that the suspension of internships on the grounds that two Muslim female teachers did not shake hands with their male counsellors in 2019 constituted "indirect discrimination on the basis of religion or belief" and decided to pay 25,000 kroner (TRY 50,000) in damages to each of the two women.

### **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 17.01.2022**

It is reported that municipalities in Denmark deliberately prevent Muslim parents from becoming foster parents, and many Muslim parents are not allowed to take care of or foster children for various reasons, despite meeting all the requirements.

### **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 30.01.2022**

The conservative parties in Denmark, which is in desperate need of immigrant workers, have asked for a ban on allowing immigrant workers from the Middle East and the North Africa to serve in the country.

### **+ Freedom of Religion and Conscience 19.04.2022**

#### **Norrköping and Linköping**

The Mayors of Norrköping and Linköping called on the police not to allow Rasmus Paludan, the leader of the Danish far-right Hard Line Party (Stram Kurs), to burn Holy Quran in their towns ever again.



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## - Right to a Fair Trial 02.07.2022

### Copenhagen

3 people lost their lives and many people were injured, 3 of them seriously, in an armed attack that took place in a shopping mall called "Field's" in Amager, Copenhagen. While the Danish police caught and detained the 22-year-old Danish-born attacker, it was noted "he had been known to have mental problems before. He was acting alone. He randomly chose the people he fired at."



# FINLAND



## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 20.07.2022

### Helsinki

PKK/YPG supporters gathered in Helsinki, the capital of Finland, to protest the NATO deal, holding the organization's rags.



Anadolu Ajansı

## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 26.08.2022

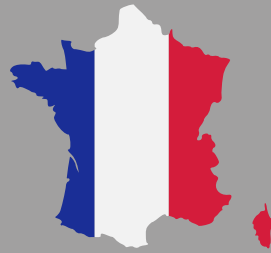
### Helsinki

The supporters of the YPG/PKK terrorist organizations staged a protest against Sweden, Finland, and Türkiye in Helsinki, the capital city of Finland.



Anadolu Ajansı

**FRANCE**



### + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 07.01.2022

Six police officers who made racist remarks and used disproportionate force against two people with immigrant background detained in a theft case in 2020 were convicted of racist insults and violence. One of the officers was sentenced to 6 month, while another one was sentenced to 12 months in prison. All four officers were sentenced to 6 months in prison, as well as 12 months of suspension.

### - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 07.01.2022

#### Paris

During a graduation ceremony of the Paris Bar Association's Formation School in France, a trainee solicitor wearing a headscarf was given a warning to take off her headscarf and that she would be kicked out of the hall if she did not. The trainee solicitor, who refused to take off her headscarf, was seated at the back of the hall to be away from the public eye. The act of the officials received strong reactions from other trainees. The trainee wearing a headscarf was forced to take off her headscarf during the oath-taking ceremony.

### - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 11.01.2022

The French government has asked the rental company Airbnb to report and disclose Muslim women who rent a villa with a pool. Allegedly, the fact that Muslim women swam in a pool on their own breached the principle of "living together".



### + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 18.01.2022

France's far-right presidential candidate, Eric Zemmour, was fined 10,000 Euros by the court for his remarks "thief, murderer, and rapist" against the children immigrants.

### - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 19.01.2022

The amendment to ban wearing a headscarf in sports competitions organized by sports federations and affiliated organizations in France has been passed.

### - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 22.01.2022

France's far-right presidential candidate, Eric Zemmour, called associations that extend a helping hand to migrants an enemy and said "they must be punished".

### - Freedom of Opinion and Expression 30.01.2022

The Municipality of Grenoble, France reneged on providing financial aid for an art festival because a woman wearing a headscarf was portrayed on a wall even though it had nothing to do with the art festival.

### - Freedom of Association and Assembly 08.02.2022

#### Paris

Paris police thwarted protests to be held to deprecate banning wearing a headscarf in sports competitions across the country.

### - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 08.02.2022

The match to be played by a women football team wearing a headscarf was cancelled in Paris on the grounds that it would put public order at risk.

### + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 10.02.2022

#### Paris

"A French court lifted the ban on the protest to be held on February 10 against the bill to ban wearing a headscarf in sports competitions, and fined Paris Police Chief Lallement 1000 Euros.

### - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 16.02.2022

The survey conducted by the National Observatory on Discrimination and Equality in Higher Education (ONDES) to test discrimination based on origin revealed that those with a Muslim name and surname are discriminated against in the application phase of post-graduate programs.

## **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 19.02.2022**

### **Nantes**

A banner featuring a woman who wears a headscarf, which was hung on a municipal billboard in the city of Nantes, France, on the occasion of "March 8 International Women's Day", was removed upon controversies.

## **+ Freedom of Religion and Conscience 20.02.2022**

### **Grenoble**

In France, where a bill to ban wearing a headscarf in sports competitions has been approved by the Senate, Eric Piolle, the Mayor of Grenoble, said women can wear a headscarf in sports competitions and in public.

## **+ Freedom of Religion and Conscience 24.02.2022**

### **Montreuil**

An Air France pilot, who was deterred from performing his job because of his practice of praying was considered radical, can now return to work as a court ruled in his favour.

## **- Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 03.03.2022**

The French Court of Appeals has ruled that the ban on trainee solicitors to wear a headscarf and take an oath while wearing one is not discrimination.

## **- Freedom of Religion and Conscience 12.03.2022**

As the presidential elections are around the corner in France, the far-right candidate Zemmour and rightist Pecesse tried conclusions with one another on TV. Zemmour said he would impose a ban on wearing a headscarf anywhere if he is elected.

## **+ Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 21.03.2022**

### **Paris**

Turkish M. L., who was banned from leaving the country due to a fight he got involved in, submitted a letter to a female judge who was appointed on his trial and asked for a special permission to attend the potentially early championship celebration of Trabzonspor, ranking first in the Turkish football championship. Reviewing the letter of request, which also included images of the team with burgundy and blue colours, the judge allowed the die-hard fan to visit his country on a certain time interval.



## - Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 14.04.2022

### Asnieres

The footage of police officers beating and punching two women wearing a headscarf in the middle of a road in Asnieres, France garnered strong reactions. The footage recorded by the bystanders shows that a French policeman said: "Yes, I hit her, I am authorized to do that" as he advocated what he did.

## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 18.04.2022

### Marseille

The supporters of the terrorist organization marched in Marseille, France, holding the images of the ringleader of the organization and various posters and banners and shouting chants. The fact that the municipality and the police turned a blind eye to the march with the rags of PKK, which is recognized as a terrorist organization in France, attracted a strong reaction.

## + Right to a Fair Trial 25.04.2022

### Besançon

The Besançon Criminal Court sentenced a Frenchman named Q. L. D. to 18 months of suspended imprisonment and 5 years of not running for any political position on the grounds of defacing some buildings originally used for praying. It was also reported that the 23-year-old defendant was a parliamentary candidate of the Rassemblement National Party and left the party after he lost the election on the grounds that he did not find enough right-wingers, and he had a criminal record for domestic violence. In its ruling, the court stated that the defendant had painted swastikas on 3 different Turkish mosques with the clear motive of "hatred against Muslims".

## - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 30.04.2022

### Paris

A luxurious restaurant in Paris named Le Plage Parisien reportedly does not allow people whose name is thought to be Muslim to book a table. An NGO of Maghreb origin making an inquiry into the case tried to book a table under various names on various days and time slots, and posted the outcome for the public to see. Associations that combat discrimination and some lawyers have filed legal actions against the restaurant. Video footage showing that the said restaurant turned customers wearing a headscarf away were also presented as evidence for the case.



### + Right to a Fair Trial 16.05.2022

#### Beauvais

The Administrative Court of Amiens gave an order for the immediate reopening of the Bilal Mosque, which belongs to the Maghreb diaspora after it had been closed down by the Prosecutor's Office upon an order of the Minister of Interior Gerald Darmanin in December 2021, on the grounds that the imam's preaching is radical. Reviewing the case upon an appeal, the court noted that the decision to close down the mosque without running a judicial procedure violates the freedom of religion and conscience.

### + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 17.05.2022

#### Grenoble

The City Council of Grenoble, which has amended the rules for public swimming pools, has granted freedom of dress, including hijab swimwear, in swimming pools situated across the city starting from June 1, in line with a new regulation.

The amendment was voted affirmatively by 29 to 27. Two council members cast an abstaining vote.

### - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 17.05.2022

#### Grenoble

Laurent Wauquiez, the Mayor of Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes that is also home to Grenoble, said the municipality would cease providing financial aid after the City Council decided to grant freedom of dress including hijab swimwear.

### + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 19.05.2022

A court in France has approved launching an investigation into Lafarge, the French cement powerhouse proven to provide ISIS with financing in Syria, on the grounds of abetting a crime against humanity.

### - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 25.05.2022

#### Grenoble

The Grenoble Administrative Court has issued a stay of execution on the Grenoble Municipality's decision to allow women to access the municipality's swimming pools in a hijab swimwear.

## + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 26.05.2022

### Paris

An employee, who was accused of being radical for not shaking hands with women and was dismissed from his job at airport, filed an appeal in the Court of Appeals after his legal action for re-employment was denied by an administrative court. The French Court of Appeals emphasized that there was no justification and evidence for his dismissal and ruled that the employee be returned to work and that compensated for legal costs.

## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 30/05/2022

### Marseille

It turned out that the organization of an ideological training camp by the supporters of the PKK terrorist organization in Marseille, France has been granted permission.

## + Right to a Fair Trial 01.06.2022

### Loire-Atlantique

In Loire-Atlantique, France, a 52-year-old racist neighbour dragged his Turkish neighbour along for 72 metres with his car. The racist neighbour was sentenced to 1 year in prison. The public prosecutor said that the 52-year-old driver put his vehicle in gear and dragged his Turkish neighbour along for 72 metres. The right hip bone of the Turkish national dragged along has been fractured.

## - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 06.06.2022

### Rhone Alpes

Kamel KABTANE, the Head of the Council of Mosques of Rhone, announced in a press release on 6th of June 2022 that the bank accounts of mosques and those who have contributed to the construction of mosques were closed without any justification providing, describing the situation as a case of "banking racism" and for several years now some members of the Muslim community and organizations have faced discrimination. In his capacity as the Head of Osman Mosque in Villeurbanne, Azzedine GACI reported that accusing the Muslims of discrimination is incomprehensible while they are being marginalized.

## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 07.06.2022

### Paris

The supporters of PKK/YPG staged a protest in France where PKK is recognized as a terrorist organization.

### **- Equality Before the Law 07.06.2022**

Reportedly the bank accounts of many mosques and donors in Rhone, France have been closed without any justification provided. While it is common knowledge that France intends to stop the mosques in the country from access to foreign financing whereas the applicable laws do not prohibit it, and the indirect punishment of the mosque congregation to donate to its own mosque has attracted some criticism.

### **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 20.06.2022**

#### **Strasbourg**

Launching a booth in front of the Council of Europe building in Strasbourg, France, PKK members and supporters attacked some Turkish citizens. Allowing the operations of the separatist terrorist organization in France, which is a NATO ally of Türkiye, has drawn some strong reaction.

### **- Freedom of Religion and Conscience 21.06.2022**

#### **Paris**

The ruling of the Grenoble Administrative Court, which issued a stay of execution on the Grenoble Municipality's order to allow for wearing a burkini in municipal pools, was upheld by the Court of Appeals. Wearing a burkini in municipal pools was found to be contrary to the Law on Secularism of 1905.

### **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 26.07.2022**

MP Rebeyrotte, who gave a Nazi salute in the French National Assembly on 12th of July, was issued a warning that was not even recorded in the parliamentary minutes.

### **- Freedom of Opinion and Expression 31.07.2022**

Some figures, who stated that they do not condone the resolution in their posts on Twitter account of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Prevention of Crime and Radicalization (CIPDR), affiliated to the Ministry of Interior in France, were described as Ikhwan and Salafi militants.

Among the figures targeted by the CIPDR are Marwan Muhammed, former director of the Collective for Countering Islamophobia in France (CCIF), as well as Feiza Ben Mohamed, a French correspondent working for AA.

"Feiza Ben Mohamed is also joining in the campaign, constantly attacking France with slander, and dares to claim that Hassan Iquioussen is an innocent imam," the French public agency posted on Twitter.



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### - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 09.08.2022

A social experiment conducted by the anti-racist and anti-discrimination SOS Racisme uncovered a racist attitude on the beaches of the French Riviera upon the rumours that black people and people of Maghreb origin are not allowed to get into some beaches in France. As part of the experiment, a black couple, a North African couple and a white couple went to the beaches and asked to rent sunbeds. In 2 of the 6 beaches visited, the officials said that they do not have any space for black and North African couples as they are fully booked while they provided sunbeds for the white couple at a short notice. SOS Racisme officials reported that after the experiments they recorded with their phones, the discriminated couples would file a criminal action against the operators of the beaches and hotels in question, and they would also be involved in the case

### - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 30.08.2022

#### Paris

The French Court of Appeals upheld the order to deport Imam Hassan Iquioussen. In its justified ruling, the Court of Appeals stated that Imam Iquioussen's long-standing anti-Semitic remarks and denial of gender equality constitute discrimination and hate speech. In addition, the Court of Appeals alleged that the deportation order would not affect the family life of Iquioussen, who is married with children.

## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 07.09.2022

### Paris

The prosecutor's office issued a detention order after 4 Italian fans insulted and made monkey gestures towards the football players of immigrant origin during the game played between PSG and Juventus in Paris. 4 hooligans will be tried for racism.

## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 02.10.2022

### Paris

On October 2, the far-right Auctorum group staged an unauthorized protest in front of the Paris Embassy, accusing Türkiye and Azerbaijan of trying to destroy Armenia. The police did not respond to the unauthorized protest.

## - Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 04.10.2022

### Valence

The administration of Valeurs et Reussite Muslim school based in the city of Valence, France, filed a legal action against the Regional Governor Elodie Degiovanni, who treated the school discriminatory. In a statement, attorney-at-law Boudi said that the school, which started operating within the borders of the Valence Mosque in 2012 upon the request of the local Muslims, has gone through all reviews without any problems and has been operating as a private school. Mayor Nicolas Daragon allocated land to be bought by the school administration, as Boudi pointed out and added that the Governor also had a positive attitude in the process, thanks to the success of the students. Pointing out that the magazine Charlie Hebdo published a smearing article on July 21, 2022, which included sectarianism and similar unfounded allegations, Boudi noted that the Governor suddenly changed his attitude and started to put pressure for the closure of the school.

## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 06.10.2022

### Beziers

Hugues Moutouh, the governor of Hérault, has decided to close a Quran school in El Houda Mosque in Béziers. The statement made by the governor's office reads: "This unannounced audit by the department's security subcommittee (...) made it clear that the regulations governing publicly traded businesses were not being complied with: Defective electrical wiring, lack of fire alarm and fire door, insufficient emergency exits, etc." During the audit, 47 students aged 7 to 11 were studying in the Qur'an school located in Al Houda Mosque.



## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 10.10.2022

### Strasbourg

PKK supporters gathered in front of the Council of Europe building in Strasbourg, France. The protesters demonstrated, waving rags, which read: "Freedom for Öcalan".



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## + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 26.10.2022

### Lille

23 year-old J.D. was sentenced to 8 months in prison after threatening to stage an attack at Lille Sud mosque in a video released on Telegram.

## + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 04.11.2022

The European Court of Human Rights sentenced France because a Muslim woman who was taken from her family and placed in a foster family of Jehovah's Witnesses in France In 1978 was raised as a Jehovah's Witness without respect for her faith, deprived of medical treatment and sexually abused by her foster family. Adding that the state was negligent when it should have carried out more effective checks, the ECtHR ruled that both freedom of religion and conscience and the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment were violated.

## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 07.11.2022

### Paris

There was a discussion after a far-right deputy shouted "Back to Africa" while speaking a black MP during a French parliament session. The session was adjourned due to what was said and it caused a major surprise in the parliament. The French National Assembly has ruled that the far-right National Unity Party deputy Guillaume de Fournas be banned from the Assembly sessions for 15 days and his parliamentary allowance be ceased for two months because of his racist remarks made in the General Assembly.



Anadolu Ajansı

## - Equality Before the Law 11.11.2022

### Strasbourg

A court in France found that the appeal of the Minister of Interior Gerald Darmanin against a resolution of the city regarding aid worth nearly 2.5 million Euros for the Eyüp Sultan Mosque, which was built in the city of Strasbourg, was justified and added that no aid would be given to the mosque.

The Strasbourg Administrative Court annulled the resolution of aid made by the city on 22nd of March 2021, which accounts for 10 percent of the construction cost of the mosque.



## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 16.11.2022

### Montpellier

Hugues Moutouh, the Governor of Herault in France, closed two Qur'an courses, one of which was held in a prayer hall, because they are illegal.

An unannounced audit was carried out for the 2 Qur'an courses in the city of Montpellier. Governor Moutouh, who decided to decommission the Tawakkul Institute, which provides religious education, and the Occitanie Multicultural Centre, which is home to a prayer hall, on the grounds that they are illegal, alleged that the mosque where prayers are held "hosts congregation without permission".

## - Freedom of Travel and Residence 21.11.2022

### Vierzon

In an incident that took place in France last year, a Turkish national who had been illegally staying in France for over 10 years was acknowledged to be right by the court due to a mistake made by the governor's office.

The Nantes Administrative Court of Appeals had ruled that there was an official error in the resolution made by the Governor's Office of Cher in April 2019 about the Turkish national residing in Vierzon. It is reported that the 45-year-old man, who crossed into France in 2003 and sought a residence permit, never received a negative reply from the Governor's Office. The lawyer of the Turkish national also noted in his appeal to the court that his client has been working as a regular employee for 10 years and has a relationship with a French national for a year now. He added that they wish to obtain a residence permit. The court granted the Governor's Office time to revise its resolution by April 22. However, the governor's office did not put the appeal of the Turkish national for the residence permit into consideration. Despite the favourable order of the court, the Turkish national has yet to be issued a residence permit.



### **- Right to Marriage 06.12.2022**

#### **Chalon Sur Saone**

A 40-year-old Turkish national residing in Chalon Sur Saone filed an application in the City in July 2021 to marry his 20-year-old French fiancée. Mayor Gilles Platre denied the marriage request on suspicion of fake marriage. When an inquiry into the case left no room for doubt, the couple filed another application and was again arbitrarily denied. After the case was brought to an administrative court, the mayor, who did not issue a permission for them to get married, was granted time by March 2023. Otherwise, he would be prosecuted for abuse of power as reported.

### **- Freedom of Religion and Conscience 16.12.2022**

A Muslim woman, who studies social services, was given a warning by the department of human resources of where she did her internship because she was wearing very long and veiled clothes. Psychological pressure was put on the woman who faced criticism about how her clothes were too veiled even though she took off her headscarf in a psychiatric hospital and was reminded of the principles of secularism.

### **+ Right to a Fair Trial 20.12.2022**

Journalist and former presidential candidate Eric Zemmour was fined 3,000 Euros by the Court of Appeals after his remarks on a TV show he attended in 2016 were described as "expressions that incite discrimination and hatred against Muslims". Zemmour took the case to the ECtHR.

In its ruling delivered on 20th of December 2022, the ECtHR unanimously stated that the interference with the applicant's exercise of his right to freedom of expression is essential in a democratic society to safeguard the rights of others in the present case, and found that the freedom of expression set out under the article 10 of the ECHR was not violated.

### **- Freedom of Religion and Conscience 25.12.2022**

A Muslim woman, who studies physiotherapy at a private school, faced pressure because she was told she could not wear a headscarf due to the by-law of the school that prohibited all religious symbols, and she attended classes with a headband in her hair as an accessory. While the school administration was not bothered when other staff members wore headbands, the school principal insistently denied the Muslim woman's choice to wear it. The young woman was forbidden to wear a mask that hides a part of her face along with her headband, and the school principal ultimately asked her to change the way she is dressed, which means changing her tunic and wide trousers.

# **GREEK CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION**



### **- Right to a Nationality (Political Rights) 07.06.2022**

#### **Derinya**

Despite the five-year-old daughter of a Greek Cypriot mother and a TRNC father being born in the Greek Cypriot Administration and living with her mother, it turned out that she was not issued citizenship because her father was a TRNC national.

The mother reportedly filed an appeal in the Greek Cypriot Ministry of Interior when her daughter was born in 2017 and that she continued to visit the ministry every six months until 2019, and that on her latest visit, she was told that since 2013, they stopped checking informations of the children whose one of the parents is Turkish Cypriots. Result of that they would not take application under consideration.

### **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 15.08.2022**

#### **Trodos**

The members of the PKK terrorist organization conducted a propaganda campaign in Trodos, the Greek Cypriot administration (GCA).

### **- Freedom of Travel and Residence 14.09.2022**

In a speech delivered during an event, the Greek Cypriot Minister of Defence said he considers Cyprus a Hellenic Island and intends to take the Turkish Cypriots out of their towns and villages.

# THE NETHERLANDS



## **+ Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity) 13.01.2022**

The Dutch Vaccination Advisory Hotline now operates in Turkish.

## **- Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 03.02.2022**

### **Giethoorn**

The racism and negligence of the officials towards the Yilmaz family, who reside in the village of Giethoorn in the northern part of the Netherlands, were exposed, and received wide coverage in the country's media outlets. Reportedly, many appeals filed by the Yilmaz family in the public authorities were not taken seriously and turned out to be inconclusive.

## **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 11.02.2022**

### **Amsterdam**

Based on a review conducted by the City of Amsterdam on discrimination against Muslims, it was concluded that the normalization of Islamophobia is a major problem for Muslims whereas they choose to live with it on the grounds that it is difficult to resist it. Failing to land a job or do an internship because of religion, facing insults for wearing a headscarf and hate speech on social media have become part of the daily life of the Muslims living in Amsterdam.

## **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 13.02.2022**

Reportedly, people who do not look like Western are kept under suspicion of tax evasion of the Dutch tax office, as well as keeping public records based on one's religion and beliefs. According to a new survey released in February on the discriminatory practice of the Dutch Tax Office concerning tax audits, it was concluded that the Tax Office also considered mosques and donations (by citizens) to mosques a risk factor as a result of its audit. In fact, the donation of 1,499 Euros was billed as a risk factor for organized crime.

## **- Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 17.02.2022**

### **Arnhem**

Residing in the Netherlands, N.A. of Turkish origin was released after it was ruled that he was innocent in a case of murder for which he served 8 years in prison.

## **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 21.03.2022**

### **Zaandam**

Rodi Zaanstad, a broadcasting corporation, posted the headline of "possible crime in the mosque" in one of its news reports about a body found in the Sultan Ahmet Mosque located in the city of Zaandam. It was reported that the broadcasting corporation is expected to issue an apology as it was announced by the mosque that the deceased was a respected member of the community and that he had died of a heart attack. The broadcasting corporation communicated an e-mail to the mosque but has not made a public statement yet.

## **+ Prohibition on Aggravation 24.03.2022**

A Dutch court delivered a ruling in favour of a Turkish national based on a relatively favourable law adopted in 1983 and yet not applicable at the moment. The non-applicable law was implemented by means of the Ankara Agreement that stipulates the principle of standstill.

## **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 02.04.2022**

### **Schiedam**

A barbecue party organized by Pegida in front of certain mosques during Ramadan was not permitted by the City of Schiedam as it would put the public order and (traffic) safety at risk. The Mayor added that a barbecue party organized in front of the mosques during Ramadan is unessential and provocative. The city stated that the event can usually be held in Stadserf, where demonstrations take place in Schiedam.

## **- Right to Health 12.04.2022**

### **Tilburg**

35-year-old Funda Gök, who was diagnosed with cancer in the Netherlands and then sent to her home after being misdiagnosed, dropped to 30 kilograms. Gök was not re-admitted to the hospital and was left to die at home.

## **- Right to Protection of Personal Data 13.04.2022**

The Dutch Tax Office was fined for breaching the personal data of 270,000 people most of whom are migrants and Muslims. As the scandal had been covered by the media outlets before, the tax office reportedly made inquiries into those whose last name ends with the letters "ic" and into certain last names of migrants, and monitored those who donate to the mosques.

### **+ Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity) 22.04.2022**

Releasing a written statement on 20th of April, the Dutch government noted that the number of YTB-sponsored weekend schools and the sum of financial aid donated were extremely low, and a visit by the state to the association would be disproportionate, so they did not find it necessary. It was also reported that the terms of donation are very strict, and it cannot be contrary to the law of the host country, and the government has not found any evidence or clue that points to an undesirable case concerning the projects. It was noted that the Netherlands also has a diaspora policy for its nationals, and that the diaspora policy adopted by Türkiye is acceptable.

### **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 26.04.2022**

Twitter suspended the account of the Dutch far-right leader Geert Wilders because of his hateful posts about Islam and Prophet Muhammad.

### **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 11.05.2022**

It is reported that the The Dutch National Coordinator for Counter-terrorism and Security (NCTV) has been monitoring some parties in the country for a long time on the grounds of "radicalization and polarization in society". According to confidential reports drawn up by NCTV and submitted to the authorities, the DENK Party, which attracts the votes of people of Turkish and Moroccan origin is referred to as "the spokesperson of Muslim fundamentalism." The reports also indicate that the far-right Freedom Party (PVV) also led to radicalization in Dutch society.

### **- Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 31.05.2022**

The government denied a bill by DENK Party to provide legal aid to families that have been adversely affected by the Tax Office's racist and discriminatory practices. No action has been taken to compensate for what the families have suffered.

### **- Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 09.06.2022**

#### **Rotterdam**

A court in Rotterdam dismissed a case by the prosecutor's office about a father and his son who had an argument with the police officers in 2020 on the grounds that the prosecutor's office and the police department did not include the racist remarks made by the police officers into the case file. The failure to include the remarks in the indictment has caused the racism of the police officers to be swept under the carpet.

## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 15.06.2022

### Schipol

The Dutch Gendarmerie Forces have punished 11 officers working at Schiphol Airport for their discriminatory correspondence (using discriminatory stickers) on a corporate Whatsapp group. One of the officers has been fired while another one has been reassigned. An official warning has been issued for the rest.

## - Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 24.06.2022

### Apeldoorn

11 year-old M.B., the son of Turkish parents living in the Netherlands, was attacked by one of their neighbours in their apartment. The attacker has been released because of a mental illness background. While the kid with 5 stabbing wounds is not in a critical condition, the company that rents out the apartment has not replied to any questions.

## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 17.09.2022

### Landgraaf

PKK/YPG supporters made propaganda of terrorism on the occasion of the so-called Kurdish Cultural Fest held in the southern part of Limburg, the Netherlands.

## + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 28.09.2022

### Amsterdam

The repeal of the law, which is known as the burqa ban after entering into force on August 1, 2019, has been approved by the majority of votes in the Amsterdam City Council.

## + Right to Social Security and Social Relief 28.09.2022

Denk Party's motion to seek solutions to support medium and small sized businesses, which have suffered from the energy crisis, has been submitted to the House of Representatives in a way to include foundations and religious organizations.

## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 09.10.2022

Dutch police unions (NPB, ACP, ANPV and Equipe) have rolled out a hotline to combat internal racism and discrimination in the police department. The hotline is intended to prevent police officers with background as a migrant from leaving the organization when they face discrimination.



## + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 11.10.2022

### Den Haag

An executive amendment has been introduced in Den Haag, the Netherlands to be applicable for all swimming pools. Under the amendment, it is now allowed to wear a burqa in the swimming pools.

## + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 19.10.2022

### Den Haag

The Dutch Court of Appeals ruled that the order to expel and replace the foundation managers of Haga Islamic High School based in the capital city of Amsterdam, which the Ministry of Education accused of "unlawful practice" and "wiring money from the foundation to the managers", was not justified.

## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 23.10.2022

### Rotterdam

Upon the detention of Edwin Wagenveld, the Dutch leader of the Patriotic Europeans Against Islamisation of the Occident (PEGIDA) in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, the group's act to burn the Holy Quran ended before it even started.



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## - Freedom of Travel and Residence 28.11.2022

As part of a rule that is going to enter into force on 1st of December 2022, Turkish nationals with a transit flight from Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam to travel to a destination outside the EU or Schengen zone will have to obtain a transit visa from the Netherlands.

### **- Right to Social Security and Social Relief 01.12.2022**

As a result of some miscalculations made by the Tax Office, the families whose child care benefits were stopped on the grounds of "falsification of documents" and who were asked to pay a large amount of money retrospectively, had their children taken away from them because they allegedly neglected their care after the financial destruction they experienced. A Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry report indicates that some miscalculations were made about the review of income concerning families who benefit from childcare assistance, those with certain ethnic backgrounds, and those with dual citizenship.

The government resigned in January 2021 after discrimination had been revealed and a decision was made to compensate the families who suffered from discrimination and the cut-off of childcare benefits.

### **- Freedom of Religion and Conscience 06.12.2022**

The Platform of Islamic Organizations (Spior) reported that it considers Dennis Wiersma, the Minister of Education, to violate the constitution due to discrimination, collective insults, and incitement to hatred and discrimination. A spokesperson for Spior stated that the Minister "cannot make policy proposals that are unconstitutional". Following the Minister's violation of the constitution, Muslim organizations in the Netherlands also filed legal actions against the Minister.

### **+ Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity) 12.12.2022**

#### **Utrecht**

The opening of the Utrecht-Overvecht Library, the first output of the Turkish Children's Library project of the Tulip Institute, which acts to promote the Turkish language development of children of Turkish origin living in the Netherlands, attracted a great deal of attendance. Anil Yilmaz, Education Attaché in Amsterdam, Utrecht Municipal Council Member Eelco Eerenberg, Utrecht Libraries Director Deirdre Carasso and Head of Tulip Institute Melek Yücel opened the library with many Turkish books.

### **+ Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 19.12.2022**

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte issued an official apology on behalf of the government for its role in past practices of slavery and role in slave trade. "For centuries, many people were commoditised, exploited, and maltreated for the benefit of the Netherlands. Human dignity was disregarded by the state of the Netherlands for centuries." Rutte said slavery is a crime against humanity, and added: "Millions of people suffered from this crime and still do. The Netherlands must acknowledge its role in it". Rutte noted that previous governments failed to acknowledge its history of slavery, and said: "I apologize on behalf of the Dutch government." He also underlined the fact that the government is going to provide EUR 200 million to raise awareness about the history of slavery.

**SPAIN**



## + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 18.10.2022

### Madrid

The trial of the far-right Hogar Social Madrid, which attacked the largest mosque in the country in October 2016, has started.

**SWEDEN**



### + Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 19.01.2022

The Swedish Ministry of Justice announced that the government is working on a motion to make current regulations about migration of workers stricter to combat the exploitation of foreign workers in the country.

### - Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 22.01.2022

The twin children of a Turkish national residing in Sweden were taken away and placed with a foster family, despite their statements taken in the company of a pedagogue at the Vase District Court and lack of evidence for violence against the children. It turned out that the foster family has not allowed the Turkish national to meet the children for a long time although he is entitled to do so.

### - Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 10.02.2022

#### Dalarna

Residing in Vansbro district of Dalarna, Sweden, Çoban family continues to seek legal means after a court took their 2 children away from them. Mehmet Çoban and his wife Cemile Çoban, are still not allowed to reunite with their children despite winning both cases in courts.

### - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 04.04.2022

A Swedish reporter of Swedish state television SVT was fired for criticizing the provocation of burning the Holy Quran by Rasmus Paludan, the leader of the Danish far-right Hard Line Party (Stram Kurs).

### + Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity) 18.04.2022

The very first Swedish-Turkish kids' magazine in Sweden called Fiyu has been rolled out for kids who are native in Turkish in cooperation with the Swedish Turkish Youth Federation (TUF), Swedish Turkish University Students and Academics Association (TSAF), Stockholm Swedish Turkish Youth Association (STUF) and Distriktsorganisation (DO).

## + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 22.05.2022

### Norrland

A woman wearing a headscarf and working in an elderly municipal home was reported to face discrimination. The municipality was sentenced to 70,000 kroner in compensation for trying to fire the woman.

## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 20.06.2022

### Göteborg

Gathering in Götaplatsen Square of Göteborg, Sweden, a group of terrorist organization supporters staged a protest to demand Sweden to impose an arms embargo on Türkiye.



Anadolu Ajansı

## - Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 24/06/2022

### Stockholm

The Swedish police has concluded its investigation into the social media posts about the terrorist organization YPG/PKK's ringleader Abdullah Öcalan and the images of the organization projected onto the buildings. The police stated that there is no need for further investigation because of lack of evidence.



## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 22.07.2022

### Göteborg

Terrorism propaganda was made again in Sweden, whose path to NATO membership is blocked by Türkiye on the grounds that it backs the terrorist organization PKK/YPG. The so-called flag of the terrorist organization was hoisted on some poles in downtown Göteborg.

## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 05.08.2022

### Stockholm

A demonstration was staged in Stockholm by the supporters of the terrorist organization YPG/PKK. The supporters of terrorism gathered across the Swedish Parliament, chanted slogans against Türkiye, and demanded a boycott for Turkish goods.

## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 10.09.2022

### Stockholm

The supporters of the YPG/PKK terrorist organization staged a protest against Türkiye in Stockholm, the capital city of Sweden.



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## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 27.09.2022

### Stockholm

The supporters of the YPG/PKK terrorist organization staged a protest across the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm, the capital city of Sweden.

## - Freedom of Association and Assembly 05.10.2022

### Stockholm

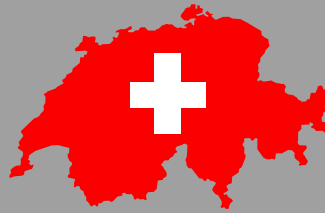
Gathering in Norra Bantorget Square, the supporters of the terrorist organization demanded the release of the terrorist organization's ringleader Abdullah Öcalan. Wearing rags symbolizing the YPG/PKK, the demonstrators unfurled the poster of Öcalan, the terrorist organization's ringleader.



## + Freedom of Religion and Conscience 09/12/2022

The Swedish Court of Appeals has issued a statement regarding the ban on headscarves imposed by Skurup and Staffanstorp district city councils in Skone. It was noted that the ban on headscarves and similar clothing items imposed by city councils in kindergartens and primary schools "has no legal grounds" and that clothes worn for religious reasons shall be considered "freedom of expression".

# SWITZERLAND



## - Prohibition of Maltreatment and Torture 09.01.2022

### **Biel/Bienne**

A Turkish citizen working in a pizzeria in Biel was allegedly interrogated on behalf of PKK for over 6 hours by 6 PKK members and threatened with death. The indictment filed by the regional prosecutor in January 2022 stated that the 6 defendants had committed crimes such as "cruel treatment", "torture", "forced confession" and "assault". The Swiss government's negligence was highlighted during the trial, when 4 of the 6 were convicted and two terrorists escaped.

**ITALY**



### **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 06.06.2022**

#### **Rome**

The sympathisers of the terrorist group and the local people marching gathered in Rome in support of terror and chanting slogans against Türkiye with the PKK's rags, although it was banned before. Although Article 270 of the Italian Penal Code stipulates "imprisonment from 5 to 7 years for those who participate in demonstrations that turn into propaganda for terrorism", the police did not take any action against the participants of the demonstration.

### **- Freedom of Opinion and Expression 12.07.2022**

#### **Milan**

Author Annalisa Chirico's presentation of her book on Muslim women included the statement "Not all terrorists are Muslim, but all Muslims are terrorists".

### **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 27.10.2022**

#### **Bari**

In Bari, a 23-year-old Italian national was arrested for incitement to racism and terrorist acts.

### **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 15.11.2022**

#### **Napoli**

In Naples, four members of the far-right Ordine di Hagal (Hagal Order) were arrested in an anti-terrorist operation carried out by DIGOS (Department of General Investigations and Special Operations).

# CANADA



### **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 14.04.2022**

The Muslim Association of Canada has launched a legal challenge to the Canada Revenue Agency's Islamophobic tax audit. The case was filed on the grounds that the audit, which began in 2015 and continues to this day by the Canada Revenue Agency, is based on prejudiced and Islamophobic approaches. While the Revenue Agency considers the Ramadan festivals organised by the Muslim associations with the title of "charity" to be a cultural event rather than a religious one, the associations will lose their charitable status if this claim is upheld.

### **- Freedom of Religion and Conscience 21.08.2022**

#### **Winnipeg**

The Muslim mother and her daughters wearing burkinis were not allowed to enter the swimming pool of the facilities where they had a reservation in the Canadian state of Manitoba.

### **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 08.09.2022**

It was found that banks in Canada were closing the accounts of Muslim foundations without a court order, but only with the decision of the bank's management to close the account.

### **+ Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 16.09.2022**

#### **Alberta**

Collin May, chair of the Alberta Human Rights Commission, was sacked over Islamophobic remarks in the abstract of a book he published in 2009.

**KOSOVO**





## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 03.04.2022

### **Yakova**

In Kosovo, where there is no law against wearing the hijab, a notice prohibiting girls wearing the hijab from entering the school was added to the warnings against weapons, alcohol and tobacco at the entrance to Necmeddin Nica High School in Yakova. Duda Balje, a member of the Bosnian community in Kosovo's parliament, reacted to the issue, saying on her social media account that it was scandalous that a religious symbol was among the banned items.

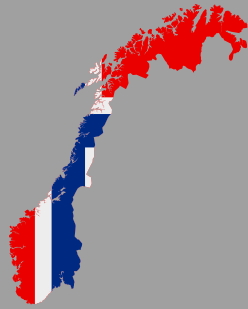
# HUNGARY



### **- Prohibition of Racism and Discrimination 29.05.2022**

Hungary started to charge different prices for fuel used by foreign registered vehicles. According to the tariff that came into force, which set the price of fuel oil at 480 forints (1.22) per litre in November last year, the price of the fuel oil sold to vehicles with foreign registration plates is 40 per cent higher.

# NORWAY



## **+ Legality of Crime and Punishment (Proportionality of Punishment) 11.03.2022**

### **Oslo**

Law Thorsen, chairman of the anti-Islam group SIAN (Stop Islamisation of Norway), pulled a flaming Qoran out of the window of his car in the Tøyen district of Oslo. A man who saw the incident tried to retrieve the Qoran, while Thorsen continued to drive by stepping on the accelerator. The police considered it appropriate to confiscate Thorsen's driving licence because he stopped for a moment and reversed the car while there were people on the road during the incident. The police explained that at least four people were walking a few metres behind the vehicle and were in danger of being injured.

## **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 23.04.2022**

### **Sandefjord**

The Islamophobic group SIAN held a protest in the centre of Sandefjord on 23 April at 15:00. The police set up barricades between the SIAN demonstrators and the counter-demonstrators. Police used tear gas against the counter-demonstrators.

## **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 17.06.2022**

### **Fredikstad**

SIAN held an information protest in Fredikstad with the aim of "eliminating the problem of Islam and sending the uninvited guests ("Muslims") back to their countries".

## **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 22.08.2022**

### **Trondheim**

SIAN protested against Islam in Trondheim. The police did not interfere with the protest, which claimed that "the aim of Islam is to turn Trondheim into a Taliban city".

## **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 23.08.2022**

### **Namsos**

SIAN protested against Islam in Namsos. The protest, with a discourse that Muslims, whom they define as uninvited guests, are ruining their culture, had a low turnout.

## **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 25.08.2022**

### **Moi Rana**

SIAN staged a protest against Islam in Moi Rana on 25 August. They said Muslims, whom they define as uninvited guests, were trying to establish an Islamic command centre in Moi Rana and were inciting the battle of Islam against humanity.

## **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 27.08.2022**

### **Bodo**

SIAN protested against Islam in Bodø on 27 August. The police set up barricades during the protest, which had the discourse that Bodø was facing the threat of Islam, that Muslims were demonstrating religious racism and that racism was contaminating society.

## **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 08.09.2022**

### **Bergen**

SIAN protested against Islam in Bergen on 8 September.

## **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 08.09.2022**

### **Haugesund**

SIAN protested against Islam in Haugesund on 8 September. The protest, which was based on the justification that Islam was polluting the daily lives of vulnerable, innocent non-Muslims, ended early due to lack of participation.

## **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 10.09.2022**

### **Stavanger**

SIAN protested against Islam in Stavanger on 10 September. They stated that the Norwegian treasury would receive several hundred billion kroner if the Muslims left the country and that they were ready to discuss the issue with those who were positive towards Islam. They also stated that the verbal harassment and violence by Muslims was not appropriate for Norway and that Muslims should leave immediately.

### **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 14.09.2022**

#### **Eidsvoll**

SIAN held a two-day protest in Eidsvoll on 14 and 15 September, which they called the "Insult to the Qoran Marathon". The Qoran was insulted in the protests, which were held on the grounds that the police had placed restrictions on the protests that were to take place on 5 September.

### **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 24.09.2022**

#### **Skien**

SIAN protested against Islam in Skien on 24 September. Negative statements were made about Islam and it was mentioned that Islam is a big problem for Norway.

### **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 01.10.2022**

#### **Sandefjord**

SIAN protested against Islam in Sandefjord on 1 October. Mutual slogans were chanted during the protest, where police set up barricades.

### **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 05.11.2022**

#### **Oslo**

SIAN distributed pamphlets with Islamophobic content in Oslo on 5 November. The group gave information about its aims and actions.

# RUSSIA





## + Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 28.12.2022

### **Armavir**

A Russian citizen named S.O., who lives in the city of Armavir, was sentenced to 2 years in prison for "insulting Muslims". The statement of the Armavir City Court included the phrase: "O. used insulting words that hurt the religious feelings of Muslims during a live broadcast on the Internet". The expert opinion confirmed the insulting nature of these words.

# NEW ZEALAND



2022

### + Right to Liberty and Security 20.06.2022

The New Zealand government has declared the US neo-Nazi groups 'The Base' and 'Proud Boys' as terrorist organisations.

# GREECE



## **- Freedom of Association and Assembly 14.06.2022**

### **Athens**

Members of the anarchist group Ruvikonas arrived at the Turkish Consulate General in Athens - Piraeus, in the Psihiko neighbourhood, throwing loose sheets of paper in support of the YPG-YPJ, the PKK's extensions in Syria and statements against Türkiye.

## **- Right to Mother Tongue (Language Diversity - Respect for Diversity) 20.07.2022**

### **Xanthi**

The Municipality of Xanthi prepared an introductory film in Greek, Turkish and Bulgarian for the "Old Town Events" to be held in September. Some communities reacted to the use of the Turkish name of the town (İskeçe) in the Turkish film prepared to promote the events to tourists coming from Türkiye. As a result of the reactions, which spread throughout Greece, the president of the Cultural Centre of the Municipality of Xanthi, Ilias Askaridis, was forced to resign and the Turkish version of the introductory film was taken off the air.

## **- Right to an Effective Remedy and Right of Access to Justice 21.07.2022**

### **Xanthi**

The decision on the assignment of headmasters to primary and secondary schools throughout Greece was announced. It was decided to retain Emorfia Stilianidu, headteacher of Xanthi Primary School, who came to prominence by banning the use of school gardens during hatim ceremonies in minority's primary schools that belong to foundations and are run entirely by foundation committees.

## - Equality before the Law 22.07.2022

### Athens

A new legal regulation on the functioning of muftiates belonging to Turkish communities in Western Thrace, Greece, was submitted to Parliament on 22 July. The new legal regulation, submitted to the Parliament as an omnibus bill, includes the definition of the Muslim minority in Thrace and provisions on the organisation and functioning of the muftiates, their location and position under the title "Modernisation of the Muftiates in Thrace" and on the status and functioning of the muftiates under the provisions on the authorisation of muftiates. The bill revises the provisions of the Presidential Decree Law dated and numbered 52/2019 on the functioning of muftiates, against which the Turkish community of Western Thrace applied to the Council of State for cancellation, but which was cancelled by the Council of State, and provides for new provisions of the nature of the complete elimination of religious autonomy, in contradiction with the provisions of the 1913 Athens Agreement and the 1923 Lausanne Agreement, which define the religious autonomy of the Turkish community of Western Thrace.

## - Right to Education 23.07.2022

### Athens

Schools belonging to the Turkish minority in Western Thrace continue to be closed due to low enrolment. Four more minority primary schools have been closed this year following a decision by the Ministry of Education.

## - Freedom of Religion and Conscience 29.07.2022

### Athens

Greece had to build a mosque in Athens, the only capital in Europe without a mosque, at the insistence of Türkiye and after 14 long years. However, there are 5 Orthodox Christians on the 9-member board of the mosque, which has neither a dome nor a minaret.

## - Equality before the Law 11.08.2022

### Athens

New Democracy MP and Second Deputy Speaker of the Greek Parliament Haralampos Athanasiu said: "MPs can be spied on for national security priorities if a non-Orthodox MP of a completely different religion, for example a Muslim MP from Northern Greece, gives information to a neighbouring country about where the refugees are coming from," implying Turkish MPs who belong to the Turkish community in Western Thrace.

## CLOSE UP STUDIES

### Security Weakness in Public Transportation Vehicles in Berlin - Racist Attacks



In recent years, there has been a drastic concentration of hate crimes in places where communities interact intensively, such as public transport vehicles and stops, according to reports published by our Presidency, statistics kept by official institutions in Germany, and records kept by independent non-governmental organisations.

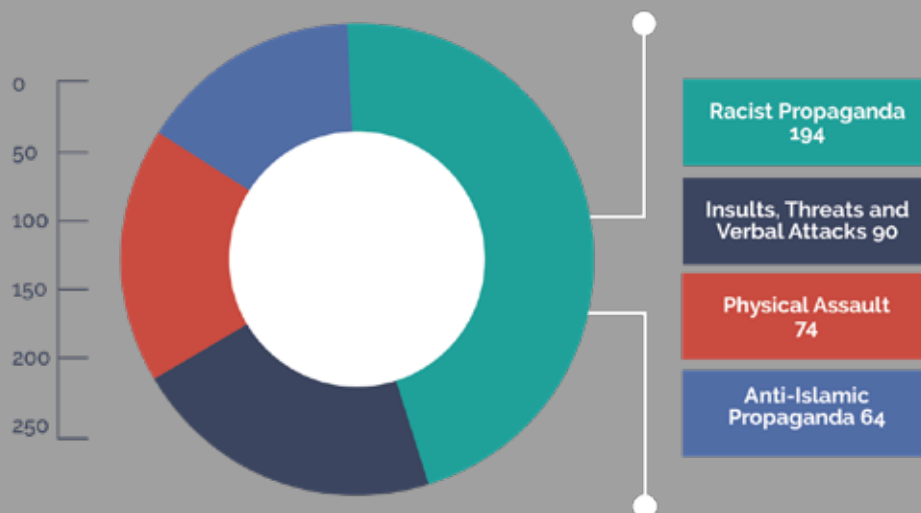
The Berlin state government led the way in Germany as the only state with an independent anti-discrimination law at the state level by enforcing the Berlin State Anti-Discrimination Act (Berliner Landes-Antidiskriminierungsgesetz - LADG) on 21 June 2020 as part of the action plan of the 2016 coalition agreement. The law also covers areas that are not part of the current General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) at federal level and aims to provide protection against discrimination, particularly in the public sphere and by public officials. With the enacted law, the state of Berlin provides for the right to compensation through the use of legal remedies in cases of discrimination based on race, colour, sex, religion, belief, disability, age, sexual identity and social status in all public institutions, public enterprises and autonomous institutions in which the public holds more than half of the shares, including the police, schools and municipalities.

The law is also important because it highlights the dominant role of anti-discrimination in Berlin's public agenda and the urgent need for legislation in this area. This is because, according to population statistics, the state of Berlin, which ranks first in Germany with a 37.7% share of immigrants, is also one of the states with the most cases of racism against immigrants. According to the records of the German Bundestag, 147 of the 432 cases of anti-Muslim racism reported in the first 3 quarters of 2022 occurred in Berlin. In other words, one in three cases in Germany was recorded in Berlin, with a total share of 34%.

The Berlin Prosecutor General's Office for Hate Crimes (Zentralstelle Hasskriminalität), which reports on hate crimes in the state, expressed that by the end of August 2022, 2606 hate crimes had been committed based on race, skin colour, sex, religion, belief, disability, age and sexual identity, within the framework of the categories specified in the Berlin Anti-Discrimination Act and pointed out that 961 of these cases were hate crimes committed via the internet. While a total of 3735 crimes were registered by the Central Office for Hate Crimes in 2021, a total of 2068 hate crime cases were reported in 2020.

Excluding the cases recorded on the internet, it can be seen that the victims of attacks are targeted at public transport vehicles and stops, which are the places where public interaction is most intense. The data available on the hate crime reporting portal called Berliner Register, which is supported by the Senate for Justice, Pluralism and Anti-Discrimination of the Berlin State Government, shows that from 5 February 2009 until the end of 2022, 419 hate crimes were committed in public transport vehicles and stops in Berlin alone. When the crimes recorded in public transport vehicles and stops are grouped according to categories, it can be observed that 194 cases consisted of graffiti, stickers and advertisements containing racist propaganda and discourse; 64 graffiti containing anti-Islamic hate speech; 90 verbal attacks against individuals containing insults, threats and humiliation were reported; and 74 cases of physical assault were reported.

### Hate Crimes Recorded at Public Transport Vehicles and Stops in the State of Berlin 2009 - 2022



Hate Crimes Recorded at Public Transport Vehicles Stops



In the report on attacks on Turkish citizens abroad published by YTB (Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities), 9 of the 73 cases recorded across Germany in 2022 occurred in Berlin. Three of these cases took place on public transport. Among these cases, the verbal and physical assault of 17-year-old Dilan S. by a group of 6 adult assailants in a tram on 5 February 2022 stands out. After the incident, Dilan S. reported the attack to the police, but the racist motive was ignored in the initial police report and the claim that Dilan S. did not comply with the requirement to wear a mask was cited as the starting point of the incident. The erroneous police report was eventually corrected after the video of Dilan S., who had bruises on her body and suffered a concussion after the attack, was circulated on social media. It was reported that while two men, aged between 24 and 55 at the time of the incident, whose far-right leanings had been identified by the security forces, held Dilan S. down, one of the women and the other male aggressors assaulted Dilan S., calling her a "dirty foreigner", "back to where you came from" and using insulting and threatening language. The first hearing of the case against the perpetrators of grievous bodily harm, insult and threat began on 16.01.2023 at the Berlin Tiergarten Administrative Court; the hearing was postponed to 3.04.2023 as one of the aggressors could not attend the hearing due to a health problem.

Again, on 1 August 2022, a pregnant Muslim woman was beaten on the bus she was travelling on, and a 20-year-old aggressor spat in the face of the woman he had insulted with racist rhetoric and tried to pull off her headscarf. Similarly, on 1 November, a 57-year-old aggressor assaulted a 17-year-old woman of immigrant origin on a bus, made racist remarks and attacked her 56-year-old mother with her bag.

The cases in question are exemplary in that they show that there is a serious security weakness in public transport vehicles and that this vulnerability seriously damages the sense of social security, and represent only a limited part of the cases currently experienced in everyday life. However, it is particularly noteworthy that more comprehensive measures should be taken in order to close the security gap experienced there.

## Reichsbürger Movement

On 7 December 2022, one of the largest and most comprehensive anti-terrorist operations in German history was carried out. It was established that the formation targeted by the operations, which were carried out simultaneously in 11 German federal states and abroad in the cities of Kitzbühel in Austria and Perugia in Italy, was planning a coup against the Federal Republic of Germany and aimed to overthrow the current government. As part of the operation, simultaneous searches were carried out at numerous addresses in Germany and abroad, and 27 people, including high-ranking members of the organisation, were arrested. It is known that the structure aiming to carry out the coup is a formation that defines itself as 'Reichsbürger' (Citizens of the Empire).



The Reichsbürger Movement – or, as they call themselves, “imperial governments” (Reichsregierungen) or “self-government/self-government” (Selbstverwalter) is a far-right and conspiracy-theory formation. As this movement is quite heterogeneous in terms of ideology and structure, it is not officially classified as an organisation. This formation, which has members throughout the country, fundamentally rejects the Federal Republic of Germany and its constitutional order. They claim that the German constitution is “a continuation of the war against the German Empire”. The present federal government, on the other hand, is seen as a false government imposed on the German people by the “victorious Western powers” after the Second World War. Justifying this claim by the fact that no formal peace treaty was signed in 1945, the movement does not recognize the legality of the Federal Republic of Germany as a state, but uses the definition of “BRD GmbH” to argue that Germany is a company rather than a state.

The basic ideologies of the citizens of the empire are described as anti-Semitic, historical revisionist and anti-democratic. In this direction, the structure has an understanding that defends the existence of the Third German Empire within the borders of 1937, denies the Holocaust and aims to establish the monarchy. The imperialists, who do not recognise the German federal law, claim that they could secede from the existing German state while demanding legal and territorial autonomy.

Accordingly, this formation, which refuses to pay taxes to the federal state and finances itself by creating its own tax networks, also produces official documents such as identity cards, passports and driving licenses belonging to the so-called German Empire.

The Reichsbürger movement first emerged in the 1980s and gained momentum in the 2010s. There is no clear information on official records at the state level. At the federal level, the formation did not appear on the radar of the security services until 2016, when the then Federal Minister of the Interior, Thomas de Maizière, announced that the Reichsbürger movement would be monitored nationwide in order to protect the constitution. This decision was prompted by the murder of a police officer by a Reichsbürger in Georgensgmünd, Germany, on 19 October 2016. This was the first time that the Reichsbürger movement was mentioned in a short text of no more than 2 pages in the 2016 Report on the Protection of the Constitution.

The number of Citizens of the Empire, which in 2016 was estimated at around 10,000 members or supporters, has today exceeded 23,000, according to official sources. According to the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), around 10% of Imperial Citizens are violent, 5% of whom are right-wing extremists. In its 2021 report, the BfV included the arming trend of the Imperial Citizens and drew attention to the potential danger it posed. According to the report, 1,050 Citizens of the Empire have had their gun licences revoked since 2016. Currently, about 500 people still have at least one gun licence. According to BfV data, the number of right-wing extremist crimes committed by Citizens of the Empire in 2021 alone almost doubled compared to 2020.

It is well known that this structure, which includes people from different socio-demographic segments, includes many public servants (active and retired), especially soldiers and police officers, as well as many politicians, businesspeople and members of the German aristocracy.

With the operation of 7 December 2022, the Reichsbürger movement was on the one hand called "a group of confused old people" by the German public, and on the other hand the danger and possible negligence of public institutions were discussed. The German institutions, which did not even use the word "organisation" to describe the Reichsbürger movement, described the actions of this formation as violent attitudes and actions of individual actors. The German institutions, which were reluctant to investigate possible links between actions and individuals, also underestimated the extreme right-wing tendencies of the formation in their reports on the Reichsbürger movement and defined them as "side groups". However, an examination of the documents that have been obtained as a result of the operation and the identities of the detainees, it is clear that the Citizens of the Empire are not just a marginal side group.

Indeed, the fact that among those arrested were names such as 13th Heinrich Prince Reuss, a property investor and member of the Reuss dynasty, who is described as the leader of the organisation, and Birgit Malsack-Winkemann, a former member of parliament and judge for the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, shows that the Reichsbürger movement brings together people with extreme right-wing tendencies from different sections of society.

Another notable aspect of the formation is that a large number of specially trained regular and retired soldiers, including members of the German army's special forces, the KSK and the police, were among the leaders.

The Reichsbürger movement is not the first far-right and racist organisation to find a social response in Germany. Again, the PEGIDA (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West) movement, which has mobilised a large mass across Germany, and the AfD party, which is gaining strength in the political wing, can easily find a foothold, especially in a country like Germany, where anti-immigrant and anti-Islamism is the driving force of democracy. The systematic, organised and armed rise of such far-right groups is not only a threat to Muslim and immigrant groups. The planned coup attempt also undermines the foundations of the culture of coexistence with democratic values and shows that all segments of society are facing a serious security threat.

## Europe's PKK Vulnerability: Cases of Switzerland, France and Sweden

The PKK terrorist organisation, which has been carrying out terrorist acts since 1984, has started to receive financial and political support through its organisations in European countries. Among them, Switzerland, France and Sweden are the three countries that have come to the fore most with their actions against our diaspora in 2022.

Switzerland differs from many countries in its history, administrative structure and style of government. The country, which was founded on a confederal structure with the coming together of different cantons, reached its present borders with the cantons that joined later. There is a system in which there is a Council for the Presidency, 7 members of the Council represent the Presidency for one year, municipal and cantonal assemblies take an active part in legislation and in some regions, citizens can participate directly in the administration. It must be said that democracy has been absorbed in every aspect of the governance phase.

Switzerland has an advanced status in terms of human rights, especially rights such as Freedom of Opinion and Expression.

However, there are contradictions in the use of these rights. For example, the actions of the members or sympathisers of the PKK terrorist organisation in the cantons of Basel, Bern or Geneva are allowed within the framework of the freedom of expression, but the citizens who have rented a place for the celebration of 23 April may face applications such as the cancellation of the programme at the last minute. In today's practice, the cancellation of programmes for security reasons does not constitute an obstacle to freedom of expression, and all kinds of democratic demonstrations can be somehow prevented within the framework of the concept of "securitisation".

On the other hand, it can be seen that the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Court of Justice of the European Union and Europol, the European Police Organisation<sup>7</sup>, have given their approval to a show of support for a formation that has been on the list of terrorist groups for many years, or to programmes commemorating terrorist leaders, without any security concerns.



However, 2022 has been a testing time in the Swiss context. On 8 May, a commemoration of 23 April was held in Basel with the participation of hundreds of Turks<sup>8</sup> and a physical attack was carried out by 30 PKK sympathisers in the area where the children were. However, the event was first reported in the media as "PKK supporters and Turks had a fight"<sup>9</sup>, and then taken out of context by changing it to "Turks and Kurds Fought"<sup>10</sup>.

Also by the supporters of terrorism, anti-Turkish writings were written on some walls in the canton of Solothurn, and the perpetrators could not be found. Finally, PKK members who forced their way into the building of the World Health Organisation in Geneva were given the opportunity to make propaganda<sup>11</sup>.

In the decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 14 December 2022 in case number T-182/21<sup>12</sup>, it was established that the PKK is a terrorist organisation and the application for removal from the list of terrorist organisations was rejected. Unfortunately, Switzerland, which has been a member of the European Court of Justice since 1963 and which has made similar decisions before, turns a blind eye to the activities of the terrorist organisation under the pretext of so-called respect for human rights.

Similarly, France's attitude towards terrorist organisations is in line with the European Union in general. The French Foreign Ministry announced in 2016 that France's attitude towards the PKK is clear and stable, that the PKK is a group on the list of terrorist organisations established by the European Union, and that the reasons for the organisation's inclusion on the list are fully valid.

In France, as in many European countries, the actions of the PKK through other associations and organisations are considered as "cultural activities" and are tolerated. PKK militants and supporters are considered and glorified as "freedom and resistance fighters" in the country. France defines the PKK as a terrorist organisation, but the Ahmet Kaya Cultural Centre, one of the critical centres of the PKK, can carry out its activities freely in Paris.<sup>13</sup> The centre acts as a recruiting centre for the PKK's activities in Syria and Türkiye, conveniently using all the organisation's symbols. The organisation's status as a terrorist organisation does not apply to TAK, KADEK, Kongra-Gel and other subsidiary organisations.

The organisation, which has created a hierarchical structure in France, has positioned the French Democratic Kurdish Council at the top. It is followed by various political and socio-cultural structures such as the Ahmet Kaya Cultural Centre, the Paris Kurdish Institute, the Rojava Representation, the Kurdistan Women's Freedom Party, the French Kurdish Students' Union and the PKK. As of 2019, the organisation's 24 NGOs established under French law operate in 12 different cities.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>7</sup>[https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Tesat\\_Report\\_2022\\_0.pdf](https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Tesat_Report_2022_0.pdf) Sayfa 68

<sup>8</sup><https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/dunya/isvicrede-pkk-yandaslarinin-23-nisan-festivaline-saldirisinda-en-az-6-kisi-yaralandi/2582389>

<sup>9</sup>Region Zürich | E-Paper (20minuten.ch)

<sup>10</sup>Region Zürich | E-Paper (20minuten.ch)

<sup>11</sup>[https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sc\\_-30\\_-pkk-mensup-ve-yandaslarinin-propaganda-eylemleri-hk-sc.tr.mfa](https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sc_-30_-pkk-mensup-ve-yandaslarinin-propaganda-eylemleri-hk-sc.tr.mfa)

<sup>12</sup><https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?jsessionid=8B7D37DA4CDCD3C9DoDA6A9A47139D80?text=&docid=268596&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=1727134>

<sup>13</sup><https://setav.org/assets/uploads/2019/06/kitap-avrupada-pkk-yapilanmasi.pdf>

<sup>14</sup>Seta Report in previous footnote.



The organisation also has a youth structure. The organisation, which is said to be particularly active in the universities of Paris and Rouen, has a radicalised youth group called "La Jeunesse Apoiste" (Apoist Youth). In addition to this group, there is also a formation called the French Kurdistan Student Union.

As part of the investigation carried out in 2007, 14 senior members of the organisation were arrested, but released after a short time. This situation created the impression that the French secret service was exchanging information with the PKK.

The leading newspapers of the country (Le Figaro, Le Monde and Le Parisien as well as Le Nouvel Observateur and l'Express) announced this to the public and underlined that actions in return to the secret services are tolerated.

On the other hand, in 2016, the Paris Court of Appeal ruled that two PKK members should be expelled from France and banned from entering the country. In the same verdict, 24 people were sentenced to prison.

In November 2016, PKK members attacked the "Curse Terrorism, Invitation to Democracy" rally organised by Turkish citizens in Paris, leaving 5 citizens injured and the French police on the side-lines. Similarly, after the peace operations in 2018 and 2019, PKK supporters attacked the citizens and foreign missions.

After the far-right attack on Kurds in Paris in December 2022, sympathisers of the organisation tried to attribute the attack to Türkiye because of the presence of people who were members of PKK affiliates among the victims. In this process, although it is known that the attacker was a far-right Frenchman, anti-Turkish marches were organised by PKK sympathisers. While PKK rags and pictures of the ringleader were used in these marches; while the elected deputies of France participated in the march, everyone in France, where "the PKK is recognised as a terrorist organisation", kept silent.

Sweden, on the other hand, has become one of the most important epicentres in Europe in financing the PKK's terrorist activities and carrying out indoctrination activities. Taking advantage of the Swedish state's tolerance, the PKK has tried to dominate the Kurdish diaspora. In fact, the PKK's efforts to create a "mass" bore fruit in the 1980s, and the organisation began to organise a significant part of the Kurdish diaspora in the 1990s under the umbrella of the so-called cultural associations. Through these associations, the PKK created an organisational base and directed this mass towards financing, recruiting extremists, lobbying and propaganda activities. As part of its lobbying activities, the PKK has also been able to easily establish links with political bodies, parties and non-governmental organisations in Sweden. Although the PKK is considered a terrorist organisation, Sweden's tolerant attitude towards the PKK has led to the PKK gaining a legal presence in the country, especially through the instrumentalization of non-governmental organisations.



The PKK's structure in Sweden has played a decisive role in providing the logistical support that this terrorist organisation needs.

An examination of the PKK's structures in Sweden shows that a number of activities are undertaken to promote the organization, recruit staff and generate income through research institutes, associations and foundations. PKK members who came to Sweden with the status of political asylum seekers, such as the Kurdistan Democratic National Association, the Swedish Kurdish Cultural Association, etc., established structures. These structures continued their activities with the support of the Swedish state. The Swedish Kurdish Council (Kurdiska Radet i Sverige), operating under the umbrella organisation KON-KURD, which was founded by the PKK in Brussels, Belgium in 1993, continued its activities in Sweden with twenty affiliated associations. In 2014, KON-KURD was replaced by the Congress of the European Democratic Kurdish Society (KCD-E/KCDK-E), and in addition to this formation, the Swedish Democratic Kurdish Association Centre (Kurdiska Demokratiska Samhallscentret, NCDK-Sverige) was established. And one centre continues to operate independently rather than being a governing body.

Despite the fact that it is known to be a branch of the PKK in the fight against DAESH in the Syrian civil war, the YPG has been seen as an important partner by the USA and the EU. Under the influence of the international community, the PKK/YPG's fight against DAESH has been heroised and Türkiye's intervention against PKK/YPG elements in Syria has been presented as an intervention against an organisation trying to end DAESH terrorism. In this process, the PKK gained more legitimacy in Sweden and received financial support from the Swedish state and local governments. Despite Türkiye's harsh reaction and calls for cooperation against terrorism, these countries continued to support the organisation. Working with groups such as FETO and the Armenian lobby in Sweden, the PKK accelerated its anti-Turkish actions.



Sweden, however, declares at every opportunity that it stands by Türkiye in its fight against terrorism and condemns the actions of the PKK. The fact that Sweden allows the PKK to finance, recruit, etc. its activities by claiming rights and freedoms is defined in the literature as “passive support” for terrorism. Therefore, Sweden's failure to prevent the PKK's activities, which are not essentially a civil society initiative, on the grounds that rights and freedoms cannot be restricted, is also considered to be passive support for terrorism.

With the Russia-Ukraine war, Sweden applied for NATO membership and the PKK's presence in the country came to the fore again. With the aim of joining NATO's security umbrella, Sweden has made various legal arrangements regarding the PKK's presence in the country, as it requires Türkiye's consent. Sweden also recognises the current intensity of the PKK's activities and the support it provides for these activities. In this regard, the Swedish Internal Security Organisation has confirmed in a statement that Sweden has provided support to the PKK. Türkiye, on the other hand, has stated that it will not agree to NATO membership unless Sweden restricts the activities and presence of the PKK in its country. At present, the Swedish authorities have not taken any concrete and meaningful steps to prevent PKK activities in the country.

Looking at the developments in the three countries, it is clear that the countries confront 'freedom of assembly and association' with their obligations to combat terrorism, protect personal security and liberty, and even to combat hate speech. At this point, it has been seen that many people disregard their rights and freedoms by considering their own interests.

## **On Secularism and the Hijab in France**

While the French National Assembly and Senate were still debating the “Law to Strengthen Respect for the Values of the Republic”, known as the “anti-segregation law” and criticised for targeting Muslims in 2021, the hijab came under particular attack. The Senate wanted to add articles to the bill banning mothers accompanying pupils on school trips, girls under 18 from wearing hijab in public places, at official sports competitions and wearing hijab swimsuits in swimming pools. French citizens whose wearing hijab started a “hands off my hijab” movement on social media, despite the fact that their hijab was targeted by the law. After a British social media phenomenon responded to the law in France by writing “hands off my hijab” in English on her hand and sharing her photo, Muslim women wearing hijab living in France also took action.

While this event was an important step in creating common sense in the public sphere, it could not go further.



In France, secularism prohibits the use of religious symbols in some public spaces. Of course, this ban does not only concern the Muslim community, but all religious communities. However, the hijab, the best-known religious symbol of the Muslim community, is at the centre of the polemic.

For example, in the field of education, the wearing of the hijab is prohibited in public schools for both students and teachers. In the field of employment, there is a ban on wearing the hijab in public institutions and public companies. Although this ban does not apply to the private sector, many private companies also refrain from employing hijabi women.

While some women choose to open their hijab or use other methods to hide it in order to be employed, others take the risk of moving to other countries in order to work comfortably. In France, this issue has come to the fore as a ban on wearing religious symbols, and in recent years the word 'hijab' has been used instead of the word 'religious symbol'.

It can be said that at the beginning of the events that took place in France throughout 2022, the hijab issue was frequently on the agenda and provoked reactions. During the propaganda process of the presidential and general elections in April 2022, the hijab issue was frequently raised and became the most important campaign material for the far-right candidates.



While the far-right candidate Marine Le Pen has said at every opportunity that she would ban the hijab in public places, the current president Emmanuel Macron has argued that a blanket ban on the headscarf is unconstitutional. Expressing that if the headscarf is banned in all public places, other religious symbols should be added to it, Macron said, "If you do this, you will start a civil war. What you say are saying very serious. How many police officers will have to run after women to enforce the ban on the hijab?' During an election campaign, Marie Le Pen replied to a hijab-wearing woman who blocked her path and asked, "What does the hijab have to do with politics?" as "A uniform imposed over time."

Commenting on the need to ban the hijab in public places, Le Pen said, "The hijab is imposed by the Islamists. Most women who wear the hijab are afraid to say so, but they think that they have no other choice. Women must be liberated. For this, the hijab should be banned in public places."

France is the only country among the 27 European Union countries that does not accept hijab in the identity cards photographs. Hijab is not just a political issue in France, which is at the forefront of countries that are intolerant of Muslim women's visibility.

It is a regularly debated topic. In 2022, there were also a number of incidents related to hijab. One of the most striking of these was the footage shared on social media on 14 April 2022, in the city of Asnieres, where the police assaulted and beat two women wearing hijabs in the middle of the street. In the video recorded by bystanders, the French police officer defended himself by saying, "Yes, I hit them, I have the authority to do this".

There have also been attempts by various bar associations to prevent lawyers and trainee lawyers from wearing hijab to court hearings. While in general there is no obstacle for trainee lawyers to start their career wearing a hijab and to take the oath of a lawyer in this way, the Lille Bar Association was the first to ban this situation. Then, in January 2022, the Paris Bar Association prevented trainee lawyers from taking the oath while wearing a hijab at the oath ceremony.

The hijab has also been banned from sporting competitions. At a women's football match in Paris in February 2022, the match involving the hijabi women's football team was cancelled for "security reasons". A hijabi girl was removed from the basketball team of which she had been a member for years. With regard to participation in cultural life, women in hijab caused a polemic on posters put up during festivals and Women's Day in the cities of Grenoble and Nantes, and these posters were removed under pressure.

One of the most common cases in France in 2022 is that women wearing the hijab are not allowed in certain cafes and restaurants for various reasons. Many NGOs protested, especially after an incident in April was documented with pictures. Muslim women living in the country face many similar incidents throughout the year. There are also serious and abrasive dimensions to these events that require psychological support. Although some are able to defend themselves in the face of these events, most remain silent. Compared to the previous generation, the new generation does not give in and tries to make its voice heard. The reason for this silence and acceptance is partly due to a lack of knowledge of the language, and partly due to various fears and concerns.

According to the results of a survey of 1,011 people aged 18 and over, conducted between 8 and 9 November 2022, 61% of French people think the hijab should be banned in public places.<sup>15</sup> Respondents feel that the hijab has no place in the country if it is used to show that they belong to the Muslim religion. On the other hand, 38 per cent think it should not be banned (1 per cent did not give an opinion).

The survey shows that there is a strong division of opinion on the issue based on the age of the respondents. While the youngest respondents are mostly against the idea (56% of 18-24 year olds, 51% of 25-34 year olds), those aged 35 and over are more in favour (including 71% of the over 50s). While 59% of women are in favour of banning the veil in public places, this figure rises to 64% among men.

<sup>15</sup><https://www.cnews.fr/france/2022-11-09/sondage-61-des-francais-favorables-linterdiction-du-port-du-voile-is-lamique-dans>

Looking at the results according to the political affiliation of the respondents, the contrast between the right and the left is striking. While supporters of the radical left and La France insoumise are divided on the issue (50% in favour), socialists and especially ecologists (48% and 31% in favour respectively) are against the idea. The Centre and Renaissance (formerly March) support the ban, with 60% in favour. On the right and extreme right, the results are quite high: the Republicans are in favour (79%), the Rassemblement National (89%) and the Reconquête (92%).

According to Aurélien Pradié, a member of the General Assembly of the Republican Party, the Islamic hijab does not allow women to “liberate themselves”. He said he was “deeply convinced” that “no woman has ever voluntarily chosen to wear the hijab” and was therefore prepared to ban it “perhaps even in public spaces”.

As a result, the survey results also show that the extreme right's attitude towards the hijab is very clear and sharp. Many of the attacks against the hijab, both in the media and in everyday life, are carried out by supporters of the extreme right. Hijab has started to become something that politicians constantly use to create public opinion or to distract it from the current agenda. In the forthcoming elections, it is very important for the future of Muslims to go to the polls in order to block the far right, which is gaining popularity, from going to the polls, after having obtained their citizenship in the first place for the right to vote. For women to exist in the country with their hijab, to be accepted and visible, they must first of all be able to express themselves very well and defend themselves bravely in the face of events.

## **Election Campaigns in France – Hate Speech**

In France, the campaigns for the 2022 presidential and legislative elections saw a major Islamophobic swing. The campaigns were obsessed with “Islamisation”. Although there have been campaigns on issues related to Islam in the electoral processes of the past years, none of them pushed the boundaries so much. At the centre of the discussions: Islamism, Islamic leftism, radical Islam, etc. The theme of the struggle with these structures has been the strengthening of Islamic developments that will disregard the Republic and its principles. In the context of these debates, harsh reactions have been put forward, often disregarding the rights of French citizens of Muslim faith and violating the fundamental principles of the Constitution. Statements about the incompatibility of Islam with France, the continuity between terrorism and Islam, or the increasingly persistent attempts by Muslims to ‘impose their own rules’ on the rest of the nation have come to the fore.



When we take a look at the candidate programs in the elections, we see some regulation promises for immigrants and Muslims, moreover, for Islam. For example, Presidential candidate Nathalie Arnaud's program included the following statements about French and migrant workers: "No hospital, construction site, cleaning industry or factory will be able to function without migrant workers. These workers are far more useful than capitalist politicians and their henchmen in the world of politics. Zemmour and Le Pen pit the French against foreigners, especially towards Muslims. They want to turn France into a fortress that rejects the poor while embracing billionaires. Let's not let them divide us. The only beneficiaries will be the capitalists."

Candidate Nicolas Dupont-Aignan's programme included articles on the deportation of illegal immigrants and foreign criminals, a five-year work requirement for newcomers to French territory before they can receive social welfare, and the introduction of a three-month national civilian service for young people to assimilate into the Republic.

While candidate Anne Hidalgo declared that she would fight against all forms of discrimination, sexism, homophobia, racism and anti-Semitism, the programmes of candidates Yannick Jadot and Jean Lassalle did not contain any references to the immigrant community or Islam.

The far-right candidate, Marine Le Pen, stated that she would impose zero tolerance on every square metre of land to put France in order, French criminals would be imprisoned, and foreign criminals would be sent by plane to their countries. Le Pen said, "I will drastically restrict immigration, especially family reunification, and only allow French people to benefit from social assistance I will re-establish border controls, deport illegal immigrants and abolish land rights. To protect our way of life, I will assimilate the peoples living in France and defend French values, especially secularism. I will wage a war against Islamism by closing radical mosques and deporting foreigners with S-files."

Candidate and winner of the 2022 election, Emmanuel Macron's programme included pledges to strengthen day-to-day security, double the presence of the gendarmerie and police to combat Islamism, and recruit 8,500 additional magistrates and justice staff by 2027.

Candidate Valerie Pécresse stated that France would impose maximum immigration quotas to decide who could enter its territory, end automatic family reunification and land rights, and that convicted foreigners would be deported at the end of their sentences. She had stated that foreigners would not receive housing and family support before the legal residence period of 5 years and that she would impose a ban on wearing headscarves on school trips, sports events, courts and ballot boxes.

The far-left candidate, Philippe Poutou, said he wanted a united and open society that welcomed all immigrants, valued freedom of movement and settlement, wanted racist and Islamophobic laws to be abolished and foreigners living in France to have the right to vote.

In the programmes of Jean Luc Melenchon and Fabien Roussel, there was no inclination towards the immigrant community or Islam.

The “Islamic programme” announced by Eric Zemmour in his candidacy for the presidency was a programme that called for the “abandonment of the practice of Islam” and crossed a line that had never been crossed before. The main axis of Éric Zemmour’s programme, aimed at the total neutralisation of Islam, was Banning the Islamic headscarf in public, banning the construction of minarets and ostentatious mosques, promoting “common sense” and “promoting jihad” in order to “stop indoctrination” by “stopping indoctrination” by “stopping indoctrination”, to stop “indoctrination” by banning the “Muslim Brotherhood” and all kinds of jihadist movements, to prevent “foreign influences” by strictly controlling foreign funding of imams and Muslim worship, and to prevent the public from systematically deporting all foreigners who might pose a threat to its order.

In the said programme; abolition of social benefits for criminals, deportation of delinquent foreigners, construction of 10,000 additional prisons and halt to immigration, confiscation of French citizenship, deportation of bi-national criminals, halt to family reunification, limitation of asylum to a few persons per year, abolition of land rights and naturalisations.

As a result, fifty per cent of the candidates develop anti-Islamic and anti-immigrant policies. The spread of the ideas of the extreme right, which pursues anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant policies, to the rest of the political spectrum is a particularly alarming trend in public debates, as it is tantamount to legitimising extremist and dangerous rhetoric. The rhetoric of the leaders of the left, who in all these statements have stood up to the political leaders against immigrants and Islam, could not have had the same impact.

The fact that Macron won the 2022 presidential election with only seventeen per cent of the vote against Le Pen is an alarming rate for the fate of the country’s Muslim community. The rise of the far right in France, which has the largest Muslim population in Europe, is also triggering hostility towards Muslims. Accordingly, hate speech against Muslim and immigrant communities has increased among right-wing leaders. The far-right leader Eric Zemmour has been at the forefront of this rise. As recently as 2022, he was fined by the court for his racist rhetoric. He used adjectives such as ‘thieves, murderers, rapists’ to describe the children of immigrants and described associations that help immigrants as enemies, saying ‘they should be punished’.

He said that he did not want to hear the voice of the muezzin and that he would not hear it if he was elected. He promised to send those unemployed for more than 6 months to his country.



He described the public housing estates (HLM), where immigrant communities usually live, as lands of Islamisation. He declared that he would ban the hijab everywhere if he became president. He compared the cities of Roubaix, Trappes, Viry-Chatillon and Vitry, where Muslims live, to Afghanistan.

The far right, which began with Marine Le Pen and gained momentum with Eric Zemmour, is increasing tensions in the country by the day. It also affects people's tendencies and orientations. Penalties imposed on the basis of the attitudes and actions of far-right leaders are not a deterrent. The role of our citizens living in France in the elections in France is becoming more important every day. Moreover, it is very important that the racist approaches they encounter are communicated to the competent authorities in order to mobilise activities to prevent extremist approaches that may occur in the future. The fact that far-right leaders are making more and more policies based on Islam every year and are constantly coming up with new approaches to fighting immigrants is a threat to the future of Muslims in the country. The portrayal of Islam as dangerous creates certain prejudices in local society, leading to the extremism of some groups.

The 2022 election rates and survey results show that the far right has a very high chance of winning the next election, which shows how effective the policies of far-right leaders are in society.



## Halal and Kosher Animal Slaughter Ban in Belgium

In Belgium, which is a federal state, the power to legislate in many areas is delegated to the federal structures known as regions and communities. These structures, which have their own governments and assemblies, have the power to make their own laws. Recent laws on animal welfare, which fall under the jurisdiction of the regions, restrict the rights of Muslims and Jews in the country.

The Flemish and Walloon parliaments voted and passed laws in 2017 banning the slaughter of animals without electroshock. As a result, the possibility of preparing meat that meets the dietary needs of Muslims and Jews in these regions, which make up the vast majority of Belgium, has disappeared. Muslim and Jewish organisations in the country asked the Constitutional Court to annul the bans, which came into force in 2019, and the Court asked the European Court of Justice for an opinion. In 2020, the Chief Advocate of the European Court of Justice, Gerard Hogan, expressed his opinion that the ban in question was contrary to EU law, but the Court's decision went in the opposite direction. In line with this view, the Belgian Constitutional Court ruled in 2021 that the ban did not violate freedom of religion or conscience. In this case, the referral of the relevant laws to the European Court of Human Rights has come to the fore. However, if the bans continue, the Brussels-Capital Region will remain the only region where halal and kosher slaughter can take place, allowing the country's Muslims and Jews to consume meat in accordance with their religious rules.

At the beginning of 2022, a bill was submitted to the parliament to implement the ban in Brussels. If this law is passed, it will inevitably make it difficult for the two groups in the country to fulfil their religious obligations. While the legal battle against the bans in other regions continues, it is clear that civil initiatives are coming to the fore in this region. The Freedom of Faith Citizens Collective collected 114,252 signatures against the ban and submitted them to the parliament. As a result of intense pressure from civil society, the law was rejected first in the parliamentary committee and later in the general assembly in June 2022.

The fact that the ban on halal and kosher slaughter was not implemented in Brussels shows that religious minorities in Europe can successfully defend their rights through civil and political participation methods. Today, however, only a very small part of Belgium remains where the ban is not enforced. Again, there is no obstacle to the introduction of new legislative proposals in this regard. Under these circumstances, it seems very likely that the rights of Muslims and Jews will be curtailed across Europe, in line with the decisions of the higher courts and in the country.

