**CALL FOR CHAPTER PROPOSALS**

**New Proposal Submission Deadline: April 7, 2017**

A book edited by

Dr. Melek Saral

and

Dr. Şerif Onur Bahçecik

**State, Religion and Muslims**

***Between Discrimination and Protection at the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Levels***

To be published by the Foundation for Migration Studies[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Introduction**

Since the 2000s, discrimination against Muslims has become increasingly visible throughout the Western world. The recent flow of refugees from Muslim countries to Europe has strengthened negative attitudes against Muslims and fueled the problem of discrimination. In line with prevailing attitudes towards migrant populations, Muslims have been targeted in policy areas such as internal security, education and social policy. Many Muslims living in Western countries now face a range of discriminatory practices, including verbal harassment, hate speech, violent attacks and religious profiling. Perhaps more worryingly, with the rise of alt-right movements and the electoral victories of populist politicians such as Donald Trump, a discriminatory attitude towards Muslims is becoming part of the global discourse.

The protection of rights and the elimination of discrimination is vital to democratic society, and it is of utmost importance to identify discriminatory patterns affecting Muslims living in Western countries. One of the key steps that needs to be taken to address this troubling tendency is to understand the phenomenon of discrimination against Muslim populations across different countries. The academic and policy communities have not been indifferent to the rise of discrimination. Many scholars inquired into the causes of this phenomenon and many reports have been published to highlight the situation of Muslim communities. These studies have rightly focused on the social, economic and political conditions that have given rise to this problem. However, a comprehensive analysis of the legislative, executive and judicial dimensions of discrimination against Muslims is lacking, and a more analytical approach that situates discriminatory practices in their institutional framework is sorely needed. For instance, constitutional guarantees of equality and anti-discrimination laws do not always ensure protection from discriminatory acts and policies. Basically, grave discriminatory acts occur in spite of existing laws and regulations in international legal standards, and through the policies of the state.

**Objective of the Volume**

This volume will analyze a vital but under-researched aspect of discrimination. It aims to discuss discrimination against Muslims in Western countries to throw light on:

* The general legal framework for the prevention and punishment of discrimination
* The national and international legislation giving rise to discrimination or setting the framework with respect to non-discrimination
* Administrative practices that cause or diminish discrimination
* Judicial decisions that are relevant to discrimination against Muslims

To address these points, the volume will highlight specific discriminatory patterns affecting Muslims in specific areas of life and provide comprehensive insight into the multi-layered levels of discrimination faced by Muslims. It will enrich the body of research on discrimination, enable actors to understand the nature of discrimination, and inspire policy makers to put forward actions to eradicate such discrimination.

The focus of analysis is on Muslims, which includes those who view themselves in a cultural and/or religious context as Muslims and those who are perceived as Muslims by others in society because of their cultural or ethnic background. In this volume, the term ‘discrimination against Muslims’ is defined as embedded in institutions, laws, policies, norms, procedures, and routines. It comprises all facets of discrimination based on any grounds, such as race, skin color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status. It refers to every type of distinction, exclusion, limitation, or preference that is intended to, results in, or may result in nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise, on an equal footing, of all rights and freedoms. Discriminatory practices may involve denying someone goods, services, facilities or accommodation, or providing someone goods, services, facilities or accommodation in a way that treats them adversely and differently.

**Target Audience**

This volume will appeal to academics and researchers working in the areas of human rights, discrimination, religious rights, and to policy makers. It will offer clear-cut recommendations for the elimination of discriminatory patterns.

**Structure of the Volume**

The volume will analyze the executive practices, legislative actions, policies, and judicial decisions regarding religious discrimination in the fields of education, employment, exercise of religion, state relations with religious communities and hate crime and hate speech. These topics have been chosen based on academic research on discrimination, and the reports of NGOs and international organizations. The analyses apply to the following 10 countries, which have a visible Muslim population and functioning legislative-executive-judiciary separation of powers to a certain degree: Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States.

Each chapter should deal with **a single country**, should be **between 18000 – 20000 words** in length, and should consist of three main parts:

* The first part should deal with the demographics of Muslims residing in the analyzed country, and with the basic structure of the state in regards to relations between its legislative, executive and judiciary branches. Further, it should briefly provide an overview of the state – religion relationship and the status of Islam/Muslims in the analyzed country.
* The second part of the volume should analyze religious discrimination against Muslims at the legislative, executive and judicial levels.
* Analysis at the legislative level should provide insight into the international and national legal framework by looking at a country’s participation, non-participation, signature, or full ratification of major international human rights treaties. Analysis should also assess national constitutions for rights provisions, and passed legislation that protects or undermines human rights.
* Analysis at the executive level should shed light on administrative practices which may intentionally or unintentionally give rise to discrimination against individuals or groups. This includes the processes and outcomes of governmental acts both ensuring anti-discrimination and leading to discrimination. The analysis should represent whether/to what extent the state respects refraining from actively depriving people of a guaranteed right, whether/to what extent the state denies or limits access to the enjoyment of rights or desists from a policy of direct or indirect discrimination, and if the state prevents other actors – individuals, groups or corporations – from depriving people of a guaranteed right.
* Analysis at the judicial level should focus on the decisions of national and international courts on discriminatory acts in the country under examination. Particular attention should be paid to landmark decisions which have had a significant impact on legislation, administrative acts and judicial practice.
* The third part will summarize the findings and offer solutions to address discrimination at the legislative, executive or judicial levels. In this part, authors can also highlight “best practices” that are transferable to different national contexts.

Detailed structure of the chapters and a short description of the headings are as follows:

**State, Religion and Muslims**

***Between Discrimination and Protection at the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Levels***

**Introduction**

1. **Background and Methodology**
2. Demographics of Muslim Population
3. The Structure of Government: Legislative, Executive, Judicial
4. State – Religion Relations
5. Status of Islam
6. **Analysis of Discrimination against Muslims at the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Levels**
7. **Education**

This part analyzes the policies of the government, national and international regulations and judicial decisions that provide a basis for discrimination against or protection for Muslims in the field of education, and may deal with the following points:

* Access to education
* Availability of religious education (religion lessons, religious schools, materials and personnel for religious instruction)
1. **Employment**

This part analyzes the policies of the government, national and international regulations and judicial decisions that provide a basis for discrimination against or protection for Muslims in the field of employment, and may deal with the following points:

* Discrimination against Muslims during the process of recruitment
* Discrimination against Muslims in work-life
* Discrimination in work-life regarding the exercise of religion
1. **Exercise of Religion**

This part analyzes the policies of the government, national and international regulations and judicial decisions that provide a basis for discrimination against or protection for Muslims in the field of exercise of religion, and may deal with the following points:

* Halal food
* Religious funeral
* Circumcision and Friday prayers
* Religious holidays
* Use of religious symbols such as headscarf
1. **State Relations with Religious Communities**

This part analyzes the policies of the government, national and international regulations (forbidding discrimination or causing discrimination), and judicial decisions regarding state relations with religious communities, and may deal with the following points:

* Autonomy and rights of religious communities
* Registration and recognition of religious communities
* Financing and taxation of religious communities
1. **Hate Crime and Hate Speech**

This part analyzes the policies of the government, national and international regulations (forbidding discrimination or causing discrimination), and judicial decisions regarding hate crime and hate speech. It will review legislation and practices that combat hate crime and hate speech, and assess if appropriate steps are effectively taken against them.

**Submission Procedure**

Researchers are invited to submit a 1-page chapter proposal and a current CV by **April 7, 2017**. Authors of accepted proposals will be notified **by April 15, 2017** about the status of their proposals, and will be sent chapter guidelines. Full chapters are expected to be submitted by **August 30, 2017**.

Chapter authors will be paid an honorarium after submitting a final version of the work.

**Publishing Schedule**

This volume is scheduled to be published in 2017.

**Important Dates**

**April 7, 2017:** Proposal Submission Deadline

**April 15, 2017:** Notification of Acceptance of proposals

**August 30, 2017:** Full Chapter Submission

**September 30, 2017:** Review Results Returned

**October 30, 2017:** Revised Chapter Submission

**November 15, 2017:** Final Acceptance Notification

*Inquiries and submissions can be forwarded* ***electronically*** *(Word document) to:*

Dr. Melek Saral

E-mail: melek.saral@uzh.ch

Dr. Şerif Onur Bahçecik

E-mail: bahcecik@metu.edu.tr

1. The Foundation for Migration Studies is a non-governmental, non-profit organization based in Ankara, Turkey (www.gocvakfi.com). The Foundation’s mission is to conduct research and disseminate information on social, cultural and political problems of migrant populations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)