

# Press Release

## **Fundamental Rights Agency's Surveys on hate crimes against Jewish, Muslim and LGBT groups in EU**

On 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013, FRA – Fundamental Rights Agency held a very beneficial stakeholders meeting in Vienna with various NGOs working with hate crimes.

FRA presented its three surveys covering hate crimes against the three above-mentioned groups. Participants then shared their experiences and exchanged ideas. Discussions culminated in a series of ideas and suggestions as to how hate crimes can be dealt with and the situation improved.

With the help of this input, a Road Map and Plan of Action will be drafted at the coming FRA conference in Vilnius-Lithuania on 12-13 Nov 2013.

All NGOs present at the Vienna meeting expressed their appreciation and support for FRA's valuable work and pledged to contribute their efforts to inform their communities and increase their efforts to minimize hate crimes in our societies.

NGO representatives were very concerned about the rise of Anti-Semitism, violence against LGBT people and Islamophobia in general and the NGOs representing Muslim communities denounced in the strongest terms the high number of Anti-Semitic incidents in certain parts of the EU in particular.

The undersigned NGOs from different parts of the EU are of the opinion that a democratic, inclusive and hate free EU is necessary and all its governments, citizens and institutions must make sure that racism, discrimination and hate crimes against its minorities come to an end as soon as possible.

### **The following NGOs have supported this statement:**

- EMISCO - European Muslim Initiative For Social Cohesion – Denmark/France
- CEJI - A Jewish Contribution to an inclusive Europe – Belgium
- Jewish Community in Vienna – Austria
- HIA-Humanity In Action – Germany
- FEMYSO – Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organization – Belgium
- AMI- Austrian Muslim Initiative –Austria
- MRB- Muslim Rights Belgium
- Swedish Muslims for Peace and Justice-Sweden
- Central Council of Muslims in Germany – (ZMD) - Germany

**For further comment and information concerning the initiative, please contact; Bashy Quraishy at: 0045 40154771 or bashy@mail.dk**