



Gaza Declaration by European Muslim Organizations

Press Kit

July 9, 2025 | Press Club Brussels Europe
Rue Froissart 95, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

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Declaration Text in English

We speak on behalf of Muslims across Europe. Representing communities from over 15,000 mosques and Islamic institutions, we reach millions. With this responsibility, we stand for justice, for life, for international law, and for peaceful human coexistence.

The situation in the Gaza Strip has escalated into an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe. More than 58,000 people have been killed as a result of direct attacks by the Israeli military. The whereabouts of hundreds of thousands remain unknown. Among the victims are countless children. Entire families have been wiped out, entire neighborhoods destroyed. People are dying in their desperate attempts to access food and water. Hunger is being deliberately weaponized. Humanitarian aid is being obstructed. Hope is fading.

In the past, we have condemned the killing of innocent people-whether it was carried out by Israel, Hamas, or any other party. Civilian casualties are tragic, no matter who they affect. We have repeatedly called for a ceasefire, the release of hostages and all unjustly detained individuals, the provision of humanitarian aid, a just peace, and the implementation of a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine. Yet, the situation has only worsened. A decades-long conflict must finally come to an end. That is why we speak today with one clear and united voice. What we are witnessing goes far beyond the context of war. It is the systematic destruction of civilian infrastructure and the livelihoods of the Palestinian population. Senior Israeli government officials have openly declared that Palestinians in Gaza have no future. International legal experts, human rights organizations, and UN representatives are now using the term genocide. These crimes against humanity must be stopped immediately.

We are witnessing horrific scenes at food distribution points. UNRWA has been replaced by the so-called “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation” in coordinating food aid. However, this framework has worsened access to aid and increased pressure on civilians to leave northern Gaza. An aid system that contributes to forced displacement is not a solution – it deepens the crisis. Reports of civilians being killed while trying to collect bread are deeply alarming.

Human rights organizations are documenting numerous serious violations of international law, including war crimes. Footage openly showing these violations is

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circulating widely on social media. Meanwhile, the situation in the West Bank continues to deteriorate: illegal land confiscations, violent expulsions, and the expansion of settlements in violation of international law persist – house after house, day after day.

All of this is happening before the eyes of the world. Yet the response of many European governments remains largely symbolic. There are no meaningful consequences. This raises critical questions: How can the commitment to human rights be reconciled with such restraint? Where are the red lines in European foreign policy?

In Israel, prominent political figures are now openly advocating for the permanent occupation of Gaza or the complete expulsion of its population. The apparent goal is the prevention of Palestinian statehood – and ultimately, Palestinian existence – in this region.

We affirm: Those who seek peace must stand for justice. And those who demand justice must uphold international law – even when it involves close allies.

We therefore call for:

- An immediate ceasefire and an end to the genocide
- The release of all hostages and those unjustly detained
- Unhindered access for humanitarian aid
- A halt to arms deliveries where they may be used in violation of international law or to commit war crimes
- Full independence and protection for the International Criminal Court in carrying out its investigations
- Unrestricted access for journalists to Gaza, along with guarantees for their safety and independence
- The recognition of a free and sovereign Palestinian state, based on a two-state solution, as the foundation for lasting peace and mutual dignity

A majority of people across Europe share this view. Polls indicate widespread support for a clear political stance. Yet in many parliaments, these voices go unheard. This growing disconnect between the public and political leadership is eroding trust in democratic institutions.

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A unified and determined diplomatic initiative has also been lacking so far from parts of the Muslim world. There is talk, but concrete action is often absent. Symbolism is replacing responsibility – and this, too, is a source of disappointment.

For decades, we have maintained constructive dialogue with Jewish communities in Europe – grounded in mutual respect. Interfaith cooperation and community cohesion remain strong. We will not allow extremists, from any background, to drive a wedge between our communities. Racism, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism have no place in our societies.

The pain of both Palestinian and Israeli families runs deep – those who have lost loved ones, and those still waiting for a sign of life from kidnapped or unjustly detained relatives. Palestinians are also being denied the means to survive. We want peace and justice – the two are inseparable.

We are grateful to the European states that have taken a clear stand, recognized the State of Palestine, and demanded concrete action against ongoing human rights violations. We also thank the many courageous voices from the arts, academia, media, and sports who continue to speak out publicly about the suffering in Gaza and the West Bank. Their commitment is indispensable.

To the civilian population in Palestine: We can only begin to imagine the scale of the suffering you endure. The loss of life, the destruction of entire communities, the anguish of countless families – we are profoundly shaken.

The silence and inaction of many global decision-makers have contributed to this humanitarian disaster. But your pain – and your hope for a peaceful, just, and self-determined future – must not be forgotten.

We are committed to ensuring that your stories are heard, that your rights are respected, and that you are able to shape your own future – in freedom, dignity, and security. Our prayers and our dedication are with peace – and with the shared effort to restore a livable Palestine.

Signatory Muslim Organizations

Germany – Coordination Council of Muslims in Germany (KRM)

France – French Council for Islam (CFCM)

Austria – Islamic Religious Community in Austria (IGGÖ)

Belgium – Executive Body of Muslims in Belgium (EMB)

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Norway – Islamic Council of Norway (IRN)

Netherlands – Contact Body of Muslims and the Government (CMO)

Denmark – Danish Muslim Union (DMU)

Italy – Union of Islamic Communities and Organizations of Italy (UCOII)

Short Presentation of Muslim Representative Institutions



Coordination Council of Muslims in Germany (KRM)

<https://koordinationsrat.de/>

Founded in 2007, the Coordination Council of Muslims in Germany (Ger. *Koordinationsrat der Muslime in Deutschland* – KRM) is a representative platform comprising the country's major Islamic umbrella organizations. In a country with nearly five million Muslims, the KRM is the central body through which federal and state governments engage in dialogue on issues concerning Islam.

The KRM advocates for the legal recognition of Islam under Germany's constitutional framework on religion. It works to establish common structures at both national and state levels, defending the religious rights of Muslim communities. The council plays a coordinating and advisory role in key areas such as Open Mosque Day, Islamic theology programs, religious education, halal practices, the headscarf debate, and Islamic holiday observances.



French Council for Islam (CFCM)

<https://cfcf-officiel.fr/>

The French Council for Islam (Fr. *Conseil Français du Culte Musulman* – CFCM) was founded in 2003 to represent the religious interests of Muslims in France. It operates nationwide through 25 Regional Islamic Councils (CRCMs) and additional Departmental Islamic Councils (CDCMs), created after 2020.

The CFCM serves as a mediator between the Muslim community, the French state, and the public. It combats discrimination and oversees areas such as imam training. Representing around 1,000 of the 2,600 mosques in France, the CFCM includes five major federative organizations among its members.

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Islamic Religious Community in Austria (IGGÖ)

<https://www.derislam.at/>

The Islamic Religious Community in Austria (Ger. Islamische Glaubensgemeinschaft in Österreich – IGGÖ) is one of the few Muslim institutions in Europe officially recognized as a religious community under the Islam Act of 1912. Founded in 1979, the IGGÖ represents more than 700,000 Muslims and is the Austrian government's primary point of contact on Islamic affairs.

The IGGÖ supervises 350 officially recognized mosques and places of worship. It is responsible for Islamic religious education in public schools, the appointment of religious teachers, pastoral care, and halal certification.



Executive Body of Muslims in Belgium (EMB)

<https://www.emb-net.be/>

Islam was officially recognized in Belgium in 1974, which led to efforts to build a formal structure to represent Muslims. The Executive Body of Muslims in Belgium (Fr. Exécutif des Musulmans de Belgique, EMB) was established in 1999 and is the Belgian government's recognized interlocutor for the Islamic faith.

The EMB's responsibilities include the recognition of mosques, the appointment and training of imams, certifying religious teachers, and assigning religious counselors to prisons and hospitals. The EMB represents 350 mosques in the country.

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Islamic Council of Norway (IRN)

<https://irn.no/>

Founded in 1993, the Islamic Council of Norway (Nor. *Islamsk Råd Norge* – IRN) is the country's oldest national umbrella organization for Muslims. For many years, it served as the Norwegian government's sole point of contact for Islamic matters.

With over 220,000 Muslims in Norway, the IRN currently unites 81 organizations comprising around 75,000 members. It operates with a general assembly, a board, an imam commission, and various subcommittees. The IRN includes some of the country's largest Islamic associations and oversees the most extensive mosque network in Norway.



Contact Body of Muslims and the Government in the Netherlands (CMO)

<https://www.cmoweb.nl/>

The Contact Body of Muslims and the Government CMO (Dut. *Contactorgaan Moslims en Overheid* – CMO) was created in 2004 and is the official representative of the Muslim population in the Netherlands. Recognized by several government ministries, it was formed to institutionalize the dialogue between the state and the Muslim community, especially following the events of 9/11.

Today, the CMO represents around 380 mosques and ten umbrella organizations—accounting for 84% of the country's mosques. It cooperates with the government in areas such as religious education, prison and military chaplaincy, halal slaughter, imam training, and anti-discrimination efforts. The CMO has formal agreements with the Ministries of Justice, Defense, Education, and Agriculture.

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Danish Muslim Union (DMU)

<https://dmunion.dk/>

Founded in 2004, the Danish Muslim Union (Dan. Dansk Muslimsk Union – DMU) brings together the leading Muslim organizations in Denmark under one umbrella. Its mission is to unite Muslim communities, represent their interests, and work toward the official recognition of Islam.

The DMU promotes religious freedom and social integration based on human rights. It emphasizes values such as intercultural dialogue, mutual respect, and public awareness. Although Islam has not yet been officially recognized as a religious community in Denmark, the DMU is actively working toward achieving that status through organized and institutional representation.



Union of Islamic Communities and Organizations of Italy (UCOII)

<https://ucoii.org>

Established in 1990, the Union of Islamic Communities and Organizations of Italy (Ital. *Unione delle Comunità e Organizzazioni Islamiche in Italia* – UCOII) is the most influential umbrella group representing Muslims in the country. It traces its roots to the Union of Muslim Students formed in the 1960s.

The UCOII represents more than 150 mosques and Islamic centers across Italy. It is actively engaged in promoting Muslim participation in public life, defending religious rights, combating Islamophobia, and training religious leaders. It works closely with the Italian government through platforms like the Islamic Council of Italy, the Islamic Advisory Council, and the PriMED imam training program. The UCOII is currently seeking official recognition as a religious community under Italian law.