EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN

PUBLIC STATEMENT

STANDING AGAINST THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD: A MILESTONE FOR EUROPEAN VALUES, SECULAR DEMOCRACY AND WOMEN'S FREEDOM

Brussels, 14th of October, 2026

The European Network of Migrant Women welcomes and strongly supports the European Parliament's resolution calling for a coordinated European strategy to counter Islamist entryism and scrutinise the influence of Muslim Brotherhood networks. This is an important milestone in **defending Europe's democratic institutions, fundamental freedoms and commitment to equality.** A common European strategy is not only necessary, but long overdue.

The ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood raises fundamental concerns for Europe's secular, democratic and pluralistic societies. Its political vision and approach to the role of religion in public life and governance raise serious questions about the separation of religious authority from democratic institutions, individual liberty, equality before the law and freedom of conscience. Europe must remain a place where everyone is free to practise their religion, change their beliefs or hold no religious beliefs at all, without pressure or coercion from religious or political movements.

The concerns surrounding the Muslim Brotherhood are not confined to Europe. Several Muslim-majority countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, have banned the organisation or designated it as a terrorist organisation under their respective national laws. Although these decisions have different legal and political contexts, they demonstrate that **concerns about the movement's activities and political objectives extend well beyond Europe.** These developments reinforce the need for European institutions to examine the movement's ideology, organisation structures, funding and activities with due diligence and independent scrutiny.

Opposing the Muslim Brotherhood's political ideology is not racism, nor is Islamophobia. Criticism of a political or religious movement must not be confused with hostility towards Muslims. Indeed, defending Muslims against coercion and political or religious extremism is part of defending their fundamental rights. **Respect for religious diversity cannot mean turning a blind eye to movements whose activities undermine individual freedoms, democratic institutions or the rights of others.**

This resolution is also an important milestone for women's rights, particularly for migrant women. Women living between different cultural, religious and social environments can face pressures relating to their autonomy, personal choices, clothing, relationships, education and participation in public life. Women who challenge religious and patriarchal expectations often face intimidation, exclusion and threats, including within their own communities. **Their freedom and safety must never be treated as secondary to cultural sensitivity or political expediency.** A genuinely equal society protects every woman's right to make her own choices, participate fully in public life and live free from religiously justified coercion and discrimination. Migrant women deserve not only protection against racism, but also the full and unconditional protection to their individual rights and freedoms.

We therefore call on the European institutions and Member States to **turn this political commitment into concrete action**, with a coordinated European strategy, greater transparency in funding and robust scrutiny of organisations and networks. **Europe must be consistent in defending its values: secular democratic institutions, freedom of conscience, equality between women and men, and the rule of law are essential safeguards of a free and pluralistic society.**