



# PRESS RELEASE

## INFO DAY 1



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**Dublin City Interfaith Forum**

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## **InterMu-Se: Promoting Interfaith Understanding and Combating Religious Discrimination in a Polarized Europe**

### **InterMu-Se Project**

The InterMu-Se (Interfaith and Multicultural Solidarity in Europe) project focuses on combating discrimination and intolerance, particularly those based on religion or ethnic origin. In a time marked by rising religious intolerance and growing societal polarization, InterMu-Se stands as a vital initiative to foster solidarity, understanding, and respect across faiths and cultures.

**Learn more:** [www.intermuse.eu](http://www.intermuse.eu)

### **A Concerning Rise in Islamophobia and Antisemitism**

Recent data by MAMA and FRA reveal a troubling surge in both Islamophobia and antisemitism across Europe:

- 1 in 2 Muslims experience discrimination in their daily lives.
- Anti-Muslim hate crimes have increased by 165% between 2022 and 2024.
- 74% of Jews in France say the Middle East conflict has impacted their personal sense of security.
- 34% avoid Jewish events or sites, citing safety concerns.
- 80% of Jewish respondents believe antisemitism has worsened in recent years.

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights adds to this concerning picture with deeper insights into Islamophobia:

- 39% of Muslims face discrimination when job-hunting; 35% in the workplace.
- Women wearing religious clothing experience a 45% discrimination rate during job searches.
- 41% are overqualified for their roles—almost double the general EU rate (22%).
- One in three struggle to rent or buy housing due to their religion (up from 22% in 2016).
- Muslims are three times more likely to drop out of school early (30% vs. 9.6%).
- 31% of Muslim households report financial hardship, compared to 19% of all EU households.
- 27% face racial harassment, and nearly half of those stopped by police report racial profiling.

These trends not only reflect personal and systemic bias but also reinforce cycles of poverty, exclusion, and marginalization.

**Learn more:** [EU Survey on "Being Muslim in the EU"](#)

## The EU has laws—but laws aren't enough.

We need policies that link anti-racism and anti-discrimination, support victims, and foster values of inclusion from the ground up. The EU has laws—but laws alone aren't enough. The 2008 Framework Decision prohibits public incitement to violence or hatred based on race, ethnicity, and religion, and while this legal foundation is essential, it must be backed by a more comprehensive and ambitious approach. This means linking anti-racism efforts with broader anti-discrimination policies, providing training for police and frontline workers to recognize and address bias, and strengthening support systems that empower victims to report abuse. Equally important are educational initiatives and public campaigns that promote the values of equality, inclusion, and diversity. Only through coordinated, cross-sectoral commitment can Europe move toward a truly just and tolerant society.

## InterMu-Se's Vision and Approach

Through InterMu-Se, we aim to promote interfaith cooperation by equipping religious leaders, faith-based institutions, and civil society with tools to engage in constructive dialogue. Our multi-faceted approach includes:

- Data collection on religious prejudice
- Capacity-building for faith leaders and civil society
- Development of interfaith dialogue tools
- Public awareness campaigns highlighting shared values across religions

In Cyprus, our research reveals a particularly nuanced reality:

The future of interfaith relations on the island depends on addressing both historic grievances and modern-day challenges. Given Cyprus' unique intersection of religion, national identity, and political conflict, meaningful progress will require approaches that are rooted in universal values—human dignity, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence—while also being sensitive to the local context. Education, policy reform, and grassroots dialogue are key pillars in this journey.

If you are interested in participating in upcoming trainings and discussions, you can sign up for our updates here: [RESET Mailing List](#)