

PRESS RELEASE

European Muslim Youth Conference 15TH OF FEMYSO

29 June to 4 July 2011, Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, 15 June 2011

Working together for a cohesive, diverse and vibrant Europe

In order to support Muslim youth involvement in all aspects of European life, **FEMYSO** is holding its **first Annual European Muslim Youth Conference**. The conference will bring together 100 leading Muslim youth from a diverse array of backgrounds, organisations and nationalities to discuss the issues affecting European and come up with constructive solutions for addressing these issues. The conference will also serve to highlight ongoing initiatives, projects and research being undertaken by European Muslim youth.

The conference is based on the recognition that while there are some major challenges ahead of us, the European Muslim community is an integral and active part of Europe, particularly youth. It is vital to recognise, encourage and foster positive and constructive European Muslim youth initiatives at the grass roots level.

The conference seeks to engage with academics, policy makers, social workers and youth work practitioners. The sessions and workshops will focus on the challenges faced by Muslim youth in Europe under 4 main themes: **Citizenship and Identity, Youth Participation and Leadership, Social Cohesion and Diversity** (intercultural and inter-religious dialogue) as well as **Human Rights and Islamophobia**.

The conference will gather 100 young leaders from **the 29th of June to the 4th of July 2011** in **Brussels, Belgium**. Speakers include:

- **Tariq Oubrou** (Imam, Bordeaux Mosque)
- **Khalid Louhichi** (Director of Youth, League of Arab States)
- **Asmaa Abdolhamid** (Danish politician)
- **Sajjad Karim MEP** (first Muslim member of the European Parliament)
- **Mahinur Ozdemir** (Member of Belgian Parliament)
- **Myriam Francois Cerrah** (spokesperson, Oxford University Islamic Society) (tbc)
- **Radouane Bouhlal**, President, Movement Against Racism, Antisemitism and Xenophobia
- **Medine**, French rapper
- **Bilal Hassam**, Fellow, Tony Blair Faith Foundation
- **Yasri Khan**, Chair, Swedish Muslims for Peace and Justice, and many others.

The aims of conference are:

Encourage knowledge-sharing, cooperation and networking among Muslim youth organizations across Europe.

Provide a platform for discussion around new and challenging issues with a view to developing a vision for Muslim youth in Europe.

Encourage active participation and critical thought within European society.

Mobilise and build the capacity of European Muslim youth and their organisations, and recognise their contributions and achievements.

The conference is kindly supported by the **Council of Europe** as well as Belgian municipalities and many international and European NGOs.

For any further information, please contact:

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