

The Teachers of Islamic Education of Thrace Association

Madame Chair, Distinguished participants, I represent the Association of Teachers of Islamic Education in Thrace, which plays a vital role in the religious educational and cultural life of the Muslim minority in Thrace. The teachers serve as imams in the mosques and are also appointed to public schools, where they teach the Koran and the values of peaceful coexistence. These institutions create valuable employment opportunities for young people, strengthening social cohesion, and offering prospects to a new generation of educators. With respect and cooperation, the teachers contribute to mutual trust between minorities and the majority, while supporting our cultural identity through social initiatives, seminars, and educational programs. Despite our crucial participation in society, we become the [inaudible] target of individuals who seek to undermine the state's efforts to demonstrate peace and respect in practice for the rights of Muslim minority students to learn their religion from educated theologians. Such inaccuracies do not reflect reality and cause unjustified harm to our community. In conclusion, our institution is supported by the state to guarantee the religious freedom of Muslim students and remains committed to promising peace, equality, and respect. This Forum is a valuable opportunity to highlight trust and counter misinformation pursued by certain circles in Thrace, and to strengthen mutual understanding. Thank you very much.