

Press Release

## End Discrimination Against Women Wearing Headscarves

### UN CEDAW Committee Calls on Germany to Reflect on Headscarf Bans

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) published its [current recommendations for Germany](#) and calls on the federal government to do more to combat discrimination against women wearing headscarves. The federal government regularly reports on the situation of women in Germany to the competent committee of the United Nations. The government is now required to ensure that headscarf-wearing women are not disadvantaged in public service because of their headscarves.

CEDAW received the Federal Government's report on the situation of women in May. A large number of women's organizations had submitted alternative reports to supplement the state report. The [report](#) of the **Bureau for the Implementation of Equal Treatment (Büro zur Umsetzung von Gleichbehandlung e.V.)** focused on the discrimination of women wearing headscarves in employment. One of the main points of criticism is the legal ban on women wearing headscarves in parts of the public service.

The Committee recommends: "Ensure that Muslim women in the public sector, including the judiciary, are not penalised for wearing headscarves, including by further amending the Law on Federal Civil Servants, and by raising public awareness so that it is not seen as undermining trust in the public service when a women civil servant wears a headscarf;" (No. 44 (a)).

This is one of four points on which the federal government must present an interim report on the measures taken in two years.

The amendment to the Federal Civil Servants Act was already criticized two years ago. The changes include thefor prohibiting public officials from wearing certain visible clothing, jewellery, symbols and tattoos, even if they have religious or ideological connotations.

The BUG supports precedent-setting complaints against discrimination. The BUG has also become active in cases of religious discrimination.

Berlin, June 1st, 2023

The Bureau for the Implementation of Equal  
Treatment

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