



## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

### Social and Political Involvement of Muslim Women In Europe: France

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- ❖ Official representation of Islam in France was solidified by an agreement signed on July 2001 called *Conseil Francais du Culte Musulman* (French Council of Muslim Faith), which established a national elected body to serve as the official representation of Islam within the French state.
- ❖ Immigrant associations across France organize themselves as “*une politique musulmane*” (political Muslim) to increase their voice on future elections.
- ❖ Political involvement of Muslim women in France includes positions such as Justice Minister, undersecretary for human rights, and undersecretary for urban affairs,<sup>1</sup> *Secrétaire d’Etat au Développement durable* (Secretary of State), and as European Deputies.
- ❖ In the last European Union elections of 1999, with 3 Franco-Maghrebian women were elected out of 23 French citizens of Maghrebian background on the ballots participating in 9 electoral lists ranging from far right to the extreme left.<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ There are numerous political movements initiated by French Muslim women. *La Femmes Musulmanes et Engages* (French Muslim Women’s Political Engagement) and *Ligue des Femmes Muslilmanes* (League of Muslim Women), for example, encourage civic and political activism, inspiring human agency within Muslim women.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ Social organizations such as *Ni Putes Ni soumises*<sup>4</sup> (Neither Whores nor Doormats), a French feminist movement founded by a Franco-Algerian woman, fights against violence targeting Muslim women with over 6000 members and numerous local branches.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=18119226>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.unc.edu/depts/europe/francophone/Muslim\\_women/eng/muslimwomen.pdf](http://www.unc.edu/depts/europe/francophone/Muslim_women/eng/muslimwomen.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The Republic Unsettled: Muslim French and the Contradictions of Secularism: Fernando, Mayanthi.

[https://books.google.com/books?id=0R3IBAAAQBAJ&pg=PT162&lpq=PT162&dq=saida+kada&source=bl&ots=XPxvOri7rm&sig=SudT9hvDHUSU1o\\_0BWFk9v6wRyI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=eShBVcjxCYHYoATproCgDA&ved=0CEsQ6AEwCg#v=onepage&q=saida%20kada&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=0R3IBAAAQBAJ&pg=PT162&lpq=PT162&dq=saida+kada&source=bl&ots=XPxvOri7rm&sig=SudT9hvDHUSU1o_0BWFk9v6wRyI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=eShBVcjxCYHYoATproCgDA&ved=0CEsQ6AEwCg#v=onepage&q=saida%20kada&f=false)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.unc.edu/depts/europe/francophone/Muslim\\_women/eng/muslimwomen.pdf](http://www.unc.edu/depts/europe/francophone/Muslim_women/eng/muslimwomen.pdf)

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.nbcnews.com/id/12812170/ns/world\\_news-islam\\_in\\_europe#.VVpycPIVhBc](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/12812170/ns/world_news-islam_in_europe#.VVpycPIVhBc)

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