



Muslim Diaspora

Existing and Emerging Challenges



Definitions

- **Muslim Diaspora:** is a term that has come to be used to describe Muslim communities who live outside their shared country of origin or ancestry but maintain active connections with it
- **Challenges:** The situation of being faced with something that needs more than usual effort in order to be done successfully and there tests a person's or community's ability
- **Existing and emerging challenges facing Muslim Diaspora**



Identity and Cultural Challenges

- Loss of 1st Generation
- In most European countries, the 1st generation faced hard struggle due to various factors:
 - Work difficulties;
 - Finding one's feet; Inability to make use of opportunities
 - Sense of the need to protect Islamic identity
 - Importing social and religious divisions



Identity and Cultural Challenges

2nd Generation

► Identity Erosion

Mother Tongue, Cultural Identity

Ethnic affiliation: we always hear a lamentation of being neither this nor that.

Food, arts

Appearance



Identity and Cultural Challenges

2nd Generation

► Identity Erosion:

Two factors help to reduce such erosion:

Family pressure

Social prejudice



Identity and Cultural Challenges

2nd Generation

- ▶ Continued weakening of ties with families back home with every generation.

In normal situations where there is no restriction on travel, visits to home countries are felt as pleasant, (or not so pleasant) holidays.



Identity and Cultural Challenges

2nd Generation

- ▶ Some communities no longer have any familial ties back home:
This may be due to family immigration in the first instance, or to other factors.
Recent waves of refugees from Muslim countries pose a real problem in this area.



Identity and Cultural Challenges

2nd Generation

Enforced Cultural Assimilation

In many European countries, we have a growing trend of anti-multiculturalism.

There is also a growing trend among Muslims to assimilate.

Can assimilation and the preservation of the Islamic identity work together?



Identity and Cultural Challenges

3rd Generation

- ▶ Does the third generation belong to a diaspora community?

In every aspect of life, the 3rd generation feels to belong to the country of settlement, not to the country of its grandparents.

Yet this is the generation that can give much to Muslim countries of origin.



Religious Challenges


- There is no formal religious leadership in Diaspora communities. This is reflected in the lamentable disunity on religious issues such as the start of religious occasions.

The result is that we still cannot agree on basic issues such as prayer times in summer.

- Religious sectarianism and fragmentation (local and imported issues)
- Aggressive hedonism.

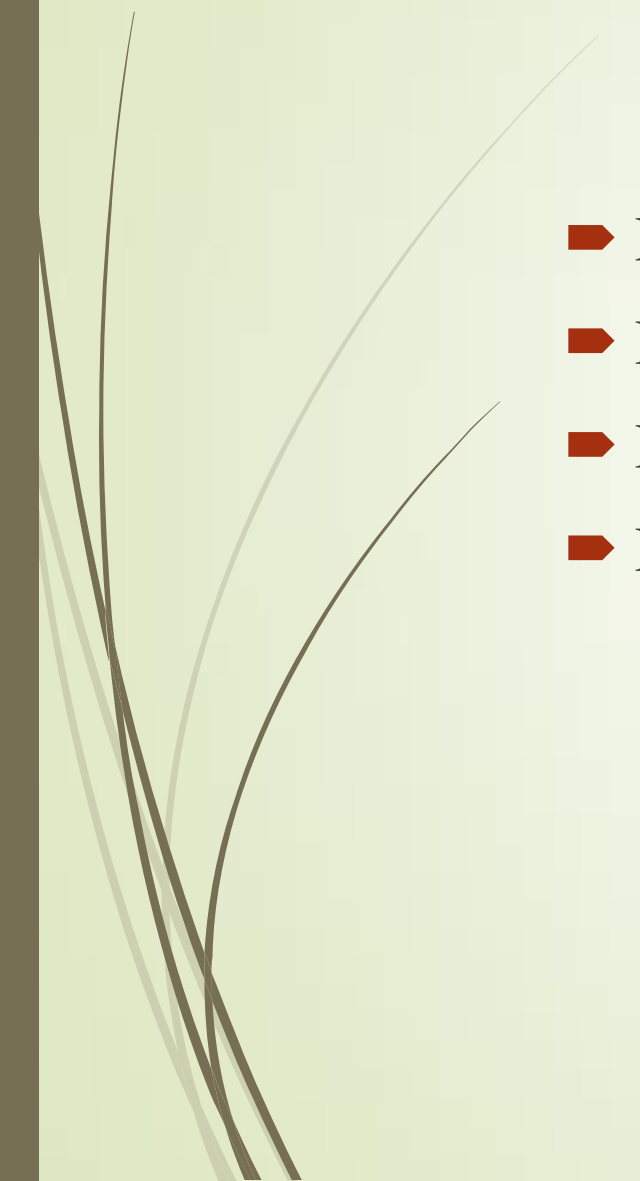


Religious Challenges

- Erosion of moral values.
 - Islamophobia and religious discrimination
 - The role of the media: vilification of Muslims; blaming Islam for different social ills.
 - Loss of religious identity. Lack of confidence.
 - Radicalisation of youth
 - Some anti-religious policies, e.g. Hijab ban.
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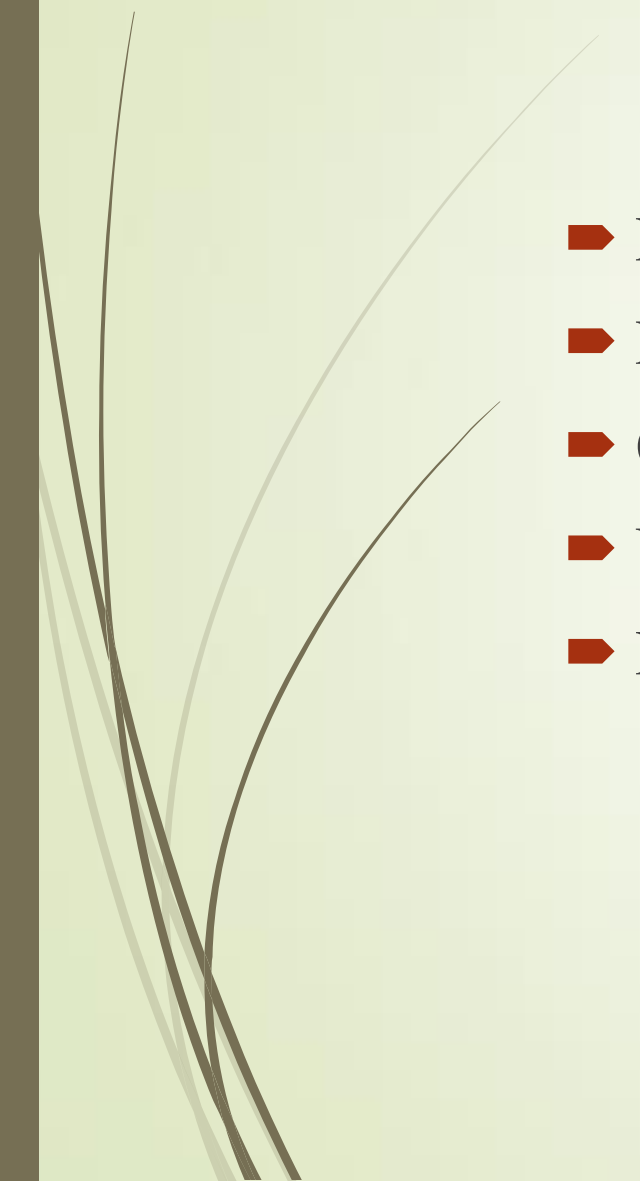


Socioeconomic Challenges

- Economic disadvantage: very little inherited wealth/ structures
 - Forming new families: finding a spouse, community building
 - Family sustainability: surging divorce rates
 - Employment and workplace: discrimination
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Political Challenges

- Poor institutional representation due to lack of funding, e.g. MCB
 - Politicisation of religious discourse
 - Question of allegiance and loyalty to local or home countr(y/ies)
 - Under representation in local and national government
 - Rise of right wing politics in Europe and USA
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Çok Teşekkür Ederim!

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