



**Statement on behalf of OIC, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, during Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Racism**  
**53<sup>rd</sup> HRC Session**  
**10 July 2023**

**Mr. President,**

The OIC thanks the Special Rapporteur for her first report and assures its support to the mandate.

The OIC reaffirms its support for the principle of non-discrimination and its faithful application in accordance with international human rights law.

We are gravely concerned over unabated acts and advocacy of religious hatred.

We strongly condemn the recent Islamophobic acts of the willful desecration of the Holy Quran and welcome convening of the Council's urgent debate on this subject tomorrow. We also appreciate SR's readiness to focus on Islamophobia among other manifestations of religious hatred.

We reiterate that permitting individuals or entities to deliberately desecrate Holy books deeply revered by a large part of humanity is no freedom of expression or opinion. These acts and advocacy are clear manifestations of religious hatred and contemporary form of racism.

We call on concerned states to uphold their obligations under international law and hold perpetrators to account.

We are dismayed at the troubling silence of the international human rights machinery over these acts that inter alia undermine the universally shared principles of mutual respect and tolerance. We urge them to speak out against these inciteful acts, in line with their respective mandates and the code of conduct.

We also draw attention to and call for filling the existence normative gaps with respect to emerging manifestations of racism, both online and offline, including on the basis of religion. The OIC remains committed to filling this void at the earliest by finalizing the additional protocol to ICERD.

**I thank you.**