



**Dear participant,**

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the **International Seminar on “Islamophobia: A Human Rights Violation and a Contemporary Manifestation of Racism”** jointly organized by OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) and the Government of Turkey, in Istanbul from **17-18 October 2018**.

As per standard practice, IPHRC Members, relevant international experts on the subject, representatives of OIC Member and Observer States as well as their NHRIs will participate in the event. Participants are expected to have an open and in-depth discussion on existing practices, policies and behaviors that have led to increased discrimination against Islam and Muslims. Together with the manifestations, the Seminar will reflect on protections accorded by relevant international law regime and the scope and nature of existing universal civil liberties to combat all forms of racism, including its contemporary form i.e. Islamophobia. The Seminar will also seek to provide insights on how to improve the legal and political strategies, with concrete recommendations to enhance the civil rights protections to combat all forms of racism, in particular hate crimes, discrimination, and social exclusion against minorities, based on their race and religion.

The **general format** of the seminar is as follows:

- On Wednesday **17 October 2018**: Opening Ceremony at 09:00 hours.
- Inaugural statements by the invited dignitaries.
- Panel Discussion: 09:45 hours. Presentations by international human rights experts followed by interventions by IPHRC Commission Members on the theme of the seminar.
- After lunch, interventions by the Member and Observers States of the OIC, followed by interventions by the NHRIs and other OIC entities/institutions.
- On Thursday **18 October 2018**: Presentation and adoption of the Final Outcome document of the Seminar – Istanbul Declaration.
- Concluding Statement by the Chairperson of IPHRC at 12:00 hours.
- Press/Media engagement at 12:30 hours.

## **Seminar Logistics:**

### **Venue and Accommodation:**

The venue of the Seminar is at **CVK Park Bosphorus Hotel Istanbul in Istanbul.**

### **Cost of Participation:**

The host country/organizer will provide the meeting facilities, including meals (coffee break and lunch during the Seminar) for all participants as scheduled in the Seminar program. Accommodation for Delegates of the Member States of the OIC and other invited participants will be the **responsibility of respective participants.** All participants are requested to make their own travel and hotel arrangements.

Participants can arrange their accommodation at the following hotels at preferred rates:

Hotel Name: **CVK Park Bosphorus Hotel Istanbul**

Address: Gümüşsuyu Avenue, İnönü Street, No. 8 34437 Taksim-İstanbul

Telephone Phone No: (+90) 212 377 88 88

Email: group.sales@parkbosphorus .com

Website: <http://www.cvkhotelsandresorts.com/>

Under normal circumstances, the price of a single room in the Taksim CVK Hotel is €110 (Around TRY 725 Based on the exchange rate dated 16 August 2018), whereas the cost of a double room is €130 (TRY 850). As they will be accommodated within the scope of the programme, the price of a single room will be €60 (TRY 400) and the price of a double room will be €85 (TRY 580).

### **Alternative accommodation options in Taksim are:**

- **The Green Park Hotel Taksim**

Single Room/BB: €60 (TRY 400), Double Room/BB: €70 (TRY 475).

Address: Kocatepe Mahallesi, Abdülhak Hamit Cd. No:34, 34437 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Tel:0212 238 0505 Web: <http://www.thegreenparktaksim.com/>

- **Avantgarde Collection Taksim**

Deluxe Single Room: €70(TRY 475), Deluxe Double Room: €83 (TRY 550) -VAT included/ Room / per day

Address: Kocatepe Mahallesi, Abdülhak Hamit Cd. No:42, Taksim/İstanbul Tel: 0212 235 8160 Web:[www.avantgardecollection.com](http://www.avantgardecollection.com)

- **Taksim Point Hotel**

Single Deluxe Room: €90 (TRY 590) Double Deluxe Room: €100 (TRY 660)

Address:Topçu Caddesi No: 2 Taksim/İstanbul Tel:0212 313 50 00 Web: [www.pointhotel.com](http://www.pointhotel.com)

- **Grand Hyatt İstanbul**

Single Grand King/Twin Room: €140 (TRY 920), Double Grand King/Twin Room: €155 (TRY 1020) Address: Harbiye Mahallesi Taşkışla Caddesi No: 1 Şişli/İstanbul Tel:0212 368 1234 Web: istanbul.grand.hyatt.com

- **Mercure İstanbul Taksim Hotel**

SingleRoom: €70 (TRY 475), Double Room: €90 (TRY 600) Address:Ömer Avni Mahallesi İnönü Caddesi No: 42 Taksim/İstanbul Tel: 0212 924 2727 Web: www.mercureistanbultaksim.com

**Dress code**

The attire for the Seminar is formal.

**Transportation**

Local group transportation from İstanbul International Airport to/from the Hotel on arrival and departure will be provided for IPHRC Commissioners, International Experts, and IPHRC Secretariat subject to itinerary confirmation received by the IPHRC Secretariat.

**All other participants are requested to make their own local transportation arrangement from Airport-Hotel-Airport.**

It is suggested that the participants could take Airport Taxis or Bus available at the Arrival Terminal, or train shuttle available inside the İstanbul Airport, available throughout the day connecting the airport with İstanbul city center. Detailed information about Train/Bus hours and tickets can be found in the following link:

<http://www.havabus.com/>

<https://www.metro.istanbul/SeferDurumlari/BiletUcretleri>

**Visa arrangements:**

Information concerning visa for all OIC Member and Observer States can be found in the following Weblink:

[https://oic-](https://oic-iphrc.org/en/data/docs/International_Seminars/Istanbul_Seminar/Turkish%20Visa%20Information.pdf)

[iphrc.org/en/data/docs/International\\_Seminars/Istanbul\\_Seminar/Turkish%20Visa%20Information.pdf](https://oic-iphrc.org/en/data/docs/International_Seminars/Istanbul_Seminar/Turkish%20Visa%20Information.pdf)

**NOTE:** Please be advised that all participants are kindly advised to re-check visa arrangements with the respective Turkish embassy in their countries.

**Internet & Telephone Facilities:**

Internet connections are provided free-of-charge in each meeting room. The hotel provides local and international telephone chargeable to personal hotel bills of the participants. The hotel also provides chargeable fax, telex, and internet.

## **Further useful information**

### **Language and literature:**

The official language of Turkey is Turkish but English is widely spoken and understood by most business people. However, the level of fluency/understanding can vary.

The Seminar proceedings shall have simultaneous interpretation into the three official languages of the OIC, namely Arabic, English and French, in addition to Turkish language

### **Climate:**

Istanbul has a mild climate. October and November are the autumn months in Istanbul. Temperatures at this time of year average out at around 13-16°C, with frequent rainy days. perhaps 11 or 13 days of rain per month.

### **Time Zone & Weekly Holidays:**

Istanbul is GMT+2time zone.

Saturday and Sunday are official weekly holidays.

### **Currency:**

The currency in Turkey is Turkish Lira (TRY).

1 US Dollar = 6 TRY approx.

### **Voltage Information:**

The electric current is 220-240-volt AC (50 cycles) throughout the country.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in the Republic of Turkey are one of the two European standard electrical socket types: The "Type C" Europlug and the "Type E" and "Type F" Schuko. It is recommended that adaptors complying with the electric current and plugs may be carried by the delegates.

## **Contact Information**

The focal persons for administrative and logistical support from the Turkish Ministry of Justice are:

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