

Chief Rabbi David Rosen, KSG, CBE

My dear Muslim brothers and sister, asalaamu alaykum wraahmatullahi wbarakatu - I hope you all had an inspiring Eid.

It is my honour and pleasure to send this message via my brother Imam Yahya Pallavicini, to your important conference convened by EULEMA and KAICIID, on the contribution of Muslim leaders to combatting hate speech.

Our societies have been plagued by the affliction of hate speech in recent times, perhaps more than ever before. Much of this arises from political, economic, and social uncertainties, and the tendency to seek to find objects of blame and scapegoating in such times. Fears are also stoked by population movements and changing demographics. And of course, there is the double-edged sword of modern telecommunications and social media which also disseminate falsehoods and disinformation and magnify stereotypes and bigotry.

Thus, the responsibility of all believers in such times to combat this plague and to promote truth and nuance, is more critical than ever. A heavy burden falls on the shoulders of Muslim leaders, both to defend their communities against such hate speech, and at the same time to ensure that their communities are not, God forbid, identified and stigmatized by such hate speech.

I send you my sincerest good wishes, blessings, and prayers, for your successful deliberations to help combat falsehood, defamation, and evil, and to promote a world of truth, tolerance, mutual respect, and good faith.

Allah maakum



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