



## **Denmark Briefing: October – November 2024**

*Reporting period: 1st October - 30th November 2024*

### **Political Developments:**

#### **Prime Minister Calls for “Value-Based Assimilation”**

In an interview based on a recent survey published on the one-year anniversary of the October 7th attack, conducted by analysis company, Wilke, for *Jyllands-Posten*, which portrays Muslims as a threat to Denmark, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen [stated](#) that she sees a growing threat to Denmark's "cohesion." She believes there are individuals in Denmark who "do not wish Denmark well."

Frederiksen highlighted an overrepresentation of crime among men from MENAPT countries (Middle East, North Africa, Pakistan, and Turkey), connecting these issues to Islam: "It's not among immigrants broadly or in any other categories you might create. These problems are specifically tied to the countries where the vast majority follow one particular religion."

While she emphasized that being Muslim does not inherently mean committing crimes, she argued: "The reality is there is an overrepresentation in certain serious issues, particularly among men from non-Western countries." When asked why, she responded: "I am not well-versed enough in the Quran to assess what specifically causes it. I can only observe that this is the way it is. And it's not only in Denmark," thereby linking crime and violence to the Muslim faith. Frederiksen called for "value-based assimilation" to address what she sees as a threat to Denmark's social cohesion.

This increased focus on Muslims may be linked to a broader [political agenda](#), where the government seeks to tighten control over religious communities. This is particularly relevant in light of current discussions surrounding the Religious Communities Act, which aims to regulate and monitor the activities of religious organisations. By placing Muslims at the center of this debate, it may legitimise more restrictive measures and expand surveillance under the pretext of ensuring integration and public safety.

## **Ministers Accuse Imams of anti-Semitism and Sympathy for Terrorism**

On October 15th, the Ministry of the Church sent an invitation to the ten largest recognized religious communities in Denmark from the Minister for Immigration and Integration, Kaare Dybvad (Social Democrats), and the Church Minister, Morten Dahlin, (The Liberal Party of Denmark). [The meeting](#) wished to discuss: "the role of recognized religious communities in addressing anti-Semitism among Danish Muslims."

The meeting request was accepted, however the day before the scheduled meeting, the two ministers participated in an interview, where the [Church Minister](#), Morten Dahlin, amongst other things, stated: "We can see that there are Islamic religious leaders in Denmark who do not use their influence for good. On the contrary, some contribute to or turn a blind eye to the fact that anti-Semitism and sympathy for terrorism are allowed to flourish in certain Muslim communities. That is why we have called for a serious talk, where we will make it absolutely clear that this is not something we will accept in Denmark."

[The interview](#) led the Muslim leaders to cancel their attendance. They expressed that they did not want to participate in a meeting aimed at shaming one population group at the expense of another, as it would create more division than [dialogue](#). Instead, they sent an invitation to the ministers with a proposal for a new dialogue meeting at their own premises – a meeting that should also address Islamophobia. [The Ministers](#) have declined the invitation.

## **Citizenship Applicants Summoned to Parliament for Questioning About Their Views**

The Danish Parliament's Naturalisation Committee has decided to summon several citizenship applicants for interviews after receiving screenshots from one applicant's Facebook page. The screenshots, which were six and three years old, were flagged by a citizen and sent to committee members after the applicant's name appeared on a proposed citizenship bill. These images prompted some committee members to suggest that the applicant should be removed from the bill. As a result, the applicants are now being called in for questioning about their "[democratic mindset](#)."



While The Social Democrats, The Danish People's Party, and The Liberal Alliance support checking applicants' so-called "democratic mindset," The Red/Green Alliance and Green Left have [criticised the move](#), calling it an unjust form of thought control.