



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Population and Policies for French Muslims

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EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ CIA World Factbook and the PEW Research Forum estimated there were 4.7 million Muslims in France in 2010. As the French census does not tabulate religion, no official estimate is available. France's estimated five million Muslims form the largest Muslim minority in Europe and are poorly represented in politics and business. ¹ Estimates are based on the number of French residents with surnames considered common in Muslim majority countries. The CIA estimates that the Muslim population in France is between 5-10 percent of the total population, 3.3-6.6 million. ²
- ❖ A 2010 Stanford University study revealed that in France, a Christian citizen of African heritage is two-and-half times more likely to get called for a job interview than an equally qualified Muslim candidate of the same ethnic background. In 2005 the unemployment rate for French North African immigrants was four to five times the national average of 10 percent. ³ Second-generation Muslim households earn 400 euros less a month than ethnically and socioeconomically similar Christian families. ⁴
- ❖ In 2009 the administrative committee of High Authority Against Discrimination and for Equality ruled government sponsored French classes were entitled to exclude fully veiled women. ⁵
- ❖ France banned the full-face veils in 2010. Women wearing veils of this kind are subject to a fine of \$200 USD. The French council warned that the law was possibly incompatible with French law, human rights and was in opposition to the French constitution. The French government is not required to follow the council's recommendations. ⁶
- ❖ The Committee against Islamophobia in France (CCIF) noted in its annual report that there had been 469 attacks against Muslims in 2013. These attacks are increasingly aimed at women rather than religious institutions such as mosques. The latter form of attacks continued, doubling between 2011 and 2012 from 20 to 40 in 2012. ⁷

¹<http://www.pewforum.org/2011/01/27/future-of-the-global-muslim-population-regional-europe/>

²<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fr.html>

³<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/europe/fr-religion-muslim.htm>

⁴<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2010/november/muslim-france-study-112210.html>

⁵http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3551_0_4_0

⁶<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/europe/09/14/france.burqa.ban/>

⁷<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/03/us-france-islam-idUSBRE9620Z420130703>