PRESS RELEASE

On 1st October 2019, the day of the opening of Parliament, there will be a march in Copenhagen uniting Danish Muslims and anti-racists:

(1) The demonstration protests Islamophobic hate speech protected by the Danish police. At a cost of far more than 100 million Danish kroner the Danish police has been protecting an ultraright convicted racist touring neighbourhoods with many Muslim residents demeaning and scorning them and the Quran. The marchers demand that he should be prosecuted, not protected.

(2) The demonstrators also protest because the Danish parliament has passed the racist "ghetto package". The law names neighbourhoods with good quality dwellings "ghettos" if their residents have low incomes and crime rates 3 times the national average, 60% of 30-59-year-olds with only basic education (lower secondary school) and 40% unemployed or not in education AND more than 50% residents of "non-Western" descent. The law requires the composition of residents to be changed by e.g. evicting tenants and selling off, tearing down or privatising dwellings. ("Western" includes Australia and New Zealand).

(3) The paradigm shift must be abandoned. The so-called "paradigm shift" has changed the focus from integration to repatriation/returning "home", challenging the human rights convention by shifting the status of all refugees not personally persecuted from permanent to temporary and returning even refugees from the UN resettlement programme in case of improvements in the conditions in the country of origin which may, however, still be "serious, fragile, and unpredictable", and attaching "the least possible importance" to integration, education, job, language skills and children.

The demonstrators demand that the new government pursues decent asylum and immigration policies and strengthens integration efforts.

The demonstration will start at 16:00 in front of the City Hall and end at 18:00 at Christiansborg Slotsplads, the square in front of the Danish Parliament.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Jette Møller, president of SOS Racisme Danmark, tlf. +45 60633399

Other organisers:

United against Racism and Discrimination represented by Lene Junker

Masjid Al-Nour represented by Khalid Alsubeihi