

# Decathlon case

## CCIF Statement



After the Burkini case, the runner's hijab case: how France continues to corrupt secularism. Yesterday, 'following violent controversy and threats', Decathlon, a multinational French company, announced that it was suspending the commercialization of its runner's hijab in France.

Hiding behind thinly guised feminism, many politicians, editorialists, Internet users and Islamophobes of all kinds are attempting to decide how Muslim women should dress. They, in the name of demonstrating solidarity and tackling oppression in faraway countries, are groups that categorically refuse to acknowledge that some French women decide to wear the hijab of their own free will.

This controversy, the most recent manifestation of an Islamophobic trend that is becoming more prominent, reminds us of the snub of some political representatives when the international scandal of illegal "anti-Burkini" decrees first broke, with many claiming that it was a symbol of oppression against women.

Yet, why are these women's voices still not heard?

The CCIF condemns this policy of consistently dehumanizing women wearing headscarves. Our government, whilst so quick to denounce other forms of violence, has been eerily silent on this matter and thus is inadvertently supporting the normalisation of hate speech spewed by the far-right; which the Government claims to fight.

The CCIF strongly stands against the upsurge of rampant Islamophobia, during which political and journalistic lines of thought resemble more closely a locker room, where targeting Muslims would seem normal.

Through the assistance the CCIF provides to victims, we understand how gendered Islamophobia is a manifestation of racism and misogyny. Women are the primary victims and the CCIF is actively trying to heal the wounds that such politico-media campaigns can leave. To recall the legal framework: Secularism (laïcité), which is a political organizational principle that imposes the separation of State and religion, does not mean a prohibition of religious practices but on the contrary, guarantees the freedom of thought i.e. the freedom to believe or not to believe.

### **For all practical purposes, also know that:**

- Women have the right to control their own bodies as they see fit
- Women have the right to dress as they wish to play sports
- Women have the right to decide how they wish to cover or not their head
- Women do not have to face injunctions and targeted harassment of politicians, editorialists and journalists or internet users
- Women do not have to justify their choices
- Women do not have to isolate themselves at home because their headscarves do not please others
- Etc.

### **Do you want to act more tangibly?**

- Join the CCIF and help give us the resources to create a powerful network against Islamophobia.

**#Togetherwearestronger**