

## Curriculum Vitae

# Eleni Velivasaki, LL.M.

### Post-Graduate Student Research Fellow with the CCCLR

Eleni Velivasaki studied law at the Democritus University of Thrace (Greece), and read her LL.M Degree on Human Rights, Conflict and Justice at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London (UK). She is currently a Phd Candidate at the Department of Balkan Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia (Greece). Her current PhD research aims to an overall examination and appraisal of the position of Islamic law in Greece addressing its legal, social, anthropological and political parameters. Although the thesis' starting point is the special system of personal laws specifically provided by law for the minority of Western Thrace, it also examines the parallel informal application of Islamic law from the relatively newly-formed Muslim communities in Greece. Her research attempts to identify and locate Islamic practices existent in Greece through and beyond the case of Thracian Muslims; this also includes practices which may not be acknowledged by the state as being legally significant. She studies also relevant experiences from other European states with longer resident Muslim communities which evidence that the non-recognition of Islamic law by the state does not mean that Muslims give up their religious law.

Over the last years she has been working for the Greek Council for Refugees as a member of the Legal Assistance Unit in Thrace (Greece) under European Refugee Fund (ERF) programmes. She has completed various projects and essays on the institution of the Ombudsman, issues of diversity, multiculturalism, religious freedom, legal pluralism and Islamic law. She is currently the coordinator for the Network for the right to conscientious objection of the Greek Section of Amnesty International.