



## **Statement by Bürgerbewegung Pax Europa**

### **OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

#### **Working Session 13**

Warsaw, September 30, 2014

The OSCE region has described the need “to counter discriminatory and biased public discourse” (from the Annotated Agenda) with the help of political representatives and other leaders. The Center for Security Policy noted at the HDIM 2013,

[...] the Center for Security Policy sees a need to object to the use of terms which are undefined, ill-defined, or defined by non-OSCE entities and whose purpose is to stigmatize, marginalize, and intimidate those holding dissenting opinions.

Examples include, but are not limited to; “intolerance”, “discrimination”, “racism”, “hate”, “xenophobia”, and “Islamophobia” without reference to any underlying claims or facts.

The use of controversial undefined terms to attack citizens has been a notorious strategy employed by oppressive and totalitarian political regimes seeking to silence dissent.

“Countering public discourse” tends to restrict freedom of speech, and should not be undertaken lightly.

Recent incidents remind us of a different form of “public discourse” that deserves to be countered. Examples include last week’s beheading of a woman in Oklahoma. This barbaric act was committed by a recent convert to Islam, who described to coworkers an Islamic teaching that women should be stoned for an offense, and an argument ensued, after which the beheading took place.

In light of this event and many others across the OSCE region, we call upon religious leaders to repudiate verses in the Koran calling for precisely the violence outlined above. Examples of verses to discard include:

1. Those verses denying the principle of respect for a human being as a human, regardless of race, color or religious belief:  
Koran 48:13 “As for those who do not believe in Allah and His Messenger, for such unbelievers We have prepared a Blazing Fire.”
2. The principle of free worship:  
Koran 9:73 “O Prophet! Strive against the unbelievers and hypocrites, and be severe to them.

Hell shall be their abode; what an evil destination! [...] They are spiteful against Muslims for no other reason than that Allah and His Messenger have enriched them through His bounty!”

3. The principle of cooperation with other humans, including non-believers:

Koran 8:51 “Believers! Do not take Jews and Christians for your allies. They are allies of each other. And among you he who takes them for allies, shall be regarded as one of them. Allah does not guide the wrong-doers.”

4. The principle that Islam leads to worldwide peace and harmony, whether one is a believer or not.

(Killing and blood vengeance are not only permissible, but also required):

Koran 2:178 “Believers! Retribution is prescribed for you in cases of killing: if a freeman is guilty, then a freeman; if a slave is guilty, then a slave; if a female is guilty, then a female. ...”<sup>1</sup>

Countering public discourse should be carried out by religious groups themselves, their leaders and religious education teachers. This can only be achieved by disclosing the contents of religious teachings to the authorities.

Make no mistake: “IS and sharia law have already arrived in Europe and whether we like it or not, Islam has everything to do with it. ‘No religion condones the killing of innocents,’ President Obama recently said. David Cameron added about the IS terrorists: ‘They claim to do this in the name of Islam, that is nonsense, Islam is a religion of peace. They are not Muslims, they are monsters.’ The sad thing is that, while they are, indeed, monsters, they are also Muslims. No matter what Mr. Obama and Mr. Cameron say, IS and other terrorist groups draw inspiration from Koranic verses, such as sura 47:4: ‘When ye meet the unbelievers, smite at their necks and when ye have caused a bloodbath among them bind a bond firmly on them.’” (Geert Wilders)

It is not the task of our governments to define the nature of religion, and they should not attempt to determine what is and is not legitimate in Islam. Instead, we should refer to authoritative Islamic texts and listen to Islamic leaders, such as Ednan Aslan, an Austrian Islamic leader who defines the “Islamic State” as follows:

“A state under Islamic law, including sharia, the caliphate, holy war, stoning, etc.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Recommendation**

- BPE recommends that OSCE and its participating States abandon the use of undefined and ambiguous terms until a definition has been agreed upon by all participating States.
- BPE calls on religious leaders in the OSCE region to repudiate verses that call for violence against non-believers.
- BPE recommends that the enforcement of legal systems at odds with universal human rights and democracy become punishable under the law.
- BPE calls on religious leaders to refrain from teaching violence to their congregations. We also call on religious education teachers to refrain from teaching their students about Jihad and violence.

---

1 Suras from “Towards Understanding the Qur'an” by Sayyid Abul A'la Mawdudi  
UK Islamic Mission, Dawah Centre, Birmingham, 2011.

2 [http://diepresse.com/home/panorama/oesterreich/3875946/Aslan\\_Muslime-benotigen-Friedenskonzepte](http://diepresse.com/home/panorama/oesterreich/3875946/Aslan_Muslime-benotigen-Friedenskonzepte)