

**Contribution by the representative of the Human Rights Protection Team,
Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Poland
At the Working Session XIII
Of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
(Warsaw, September 30, 2014)**

Mr. Moderator,

Human Rights Protection Team of the Ministry of Interior is responsible for monitoring cases related to hate crimes and to human rights observance by services subjected to the Minister of Interior. Human Rights Protection Team also acts as the National Contact Point on combating hate crimes to ODIHR.

Ministry of Interior, apart from developing competences of law enforcement in investigating hate crimes, undertakes the actions in order to encourage victims to report crimes. Therefore, Ministry of Interior carries out the project *Immigrants against hate crimes - how to effectively assert your rights*, financially supported by the European Fund for the Integration of Third - Country Nationals. Within the framework of the project the information campaign on hate crimes has been conducted in 2014. The campaign was directed at third - country nationals who are currently living or staying in Poland. Its prime goal was to raise awareness of the foreigners about the actions that they can undertake when they are faced with hate crimes and hate incidents. Accordingly, the purpose of the campaign is also to encourage the foreigners to report hate crimes to law enforcement as well as to call the attention of the whole society to hate crimes issue. The project is a response to expectations and needs expressed by foreigners as well as recommendations submitted by international organizations.

The campaign has been carried out across the country, and was launched through different mass media channels e.g. multilingual leaflets and websites, billboards, posters, TV spot. The leaflets and website www.reportracism.pl were published in ten most common languages spoken by the foreigners in Poland. The website contains also contact form which allows to report a hate crime directly to Human Rights Protection Team. The leaflets are distributed among the foreigners via NGOs, universities and public institutions. Information materials were sent to all police headquarters and NGOs dealing with human rights.

Another action that will be implemented under the project, will be the conference, where representatives of NGOs, Police and other stakeholders will meet to develop principles for further cooperation.

The project comes to an end, but now we can say that it is a big success. The project reached over 100 thousand foreigners. We established cooperation with over a hundred NGOs. Only the TV campaign reached over 10 million people. Since it started, the number of cases reported to Human Rights Protection Team by foreigners and Polish citizens has grown significantly.

Above all, however, the project aimed at convincing foreigners that it is worthwhile to report hate crimes, and was a clear signal that this problem is treated seriously by the authorities.

Thank you.