



**OSCE
HUMAN DIMENSION
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
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Warsaw, Poland
Working Session 11: National Minorities**

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**Thank you very much Ms. Moderator,
My name is Pervin Hayrullah and I am representing the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace in Greece.**

Ms. Moderator,

An estimated number of 150.000 ethnic Turks live in the North East part of Greece.
Besides the other human rights abuses the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace also faces with social exclusion.
There is no Turkish person in the police although the Minority constitutes more than half of the population in Western Thrace.
There is no high rank Turkish soldier in the army.
There is no Turkish Minority representative in the National Human Rights Committee.
The officials in regional governmental bodies or public services are less than ten people although as I said before in Western Thrace the Minority constitutes, especially in the provinces of Rodopi and Xanthi, more than half of the population.

Ms. Moderator

On behalf of the **Muslim Turkish Minority of Western Thrace** I would like to make the following recommendations to the Greek authorities:

- Recalling that the European Union is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights,
- Recalling that tolerance and non-discrimination rank high among the priorities of the OSCE and participating States have repeatedly expressed concerns about manifestations of racism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance,
- Recalling that the protection of minorities is inherent in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- Recalling that the Copenhagen Document constitutes a breakthrough in international standard-setting on national minority issues.

We call upon the Greek state to:

1. Respect the collective usage of individual right and recognize the existence of a Turkish minority in Greece.
2. Ratify, without delay and any reservations, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.
3. Take steps to ensure the immediate rectification of the unfortunate consequences arising from deprivation of Greek citizenship on the basis of former Article 19 of the Citizenship Code (which can be called a cultural genocide) for all persons concerned, especially ethnic Turks.
4. Ensure the equal opportunity for every person to access in public life and decision making procedures.
5. Ensure the full implementation of the provisions of the 1990 CSCE/OSCE Copenhagen Document that Greece has signed and ratified.
6. Establish an objective and productive dialogue mechanism with the minority in order to understand and find satisfactory solutions to the problems of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace.

Thank you for your attention.