



Set My People Free Intervention

Working Session 11: Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including prevention and responses to hate crimes in the OSCE area, and combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on tolerance on religious grounds.

HATE CRIME

My concern is that we are trying to justify Hate Crime;

The death of the priest in France was a hate crime. The attack in Nice was a hate crime. The attack on Brussels airport was a hate crime. The attack in downtown Paris last year was a hate crime. The attack on Charlie Hebdo journalists was a hate crime. The stabbings in Germany were hate crimes.

There is no justification for hate crimes;

Murdering innocent people cannot be justified.
Perpetrators need to take responsibility for their actions.
Denying responsibility is betrayal of the victims.
Remorse is key for reconciliation and for a change in the actions of the perpetrators.

Can this be considered Hate Speech?

I was very surprised that one of the main speakers about tolerance in the plenary session, Prof. Bülent Şenay, rejected any analytic or critical thinking or questioning of Islam and its belief.

He wanted to consider any critique of Islam and its laws as hate crime.

This does not make sense since a belief system is something you can join or leave, accept or reject, follow or abandon.

Is saying that I do not believe in Mohammed as a prophet of God considered hate speech and blasphemy?

This is ridiculous because if I believe that Mohammed is a prophet of God I would have become a Muslim, but I am not.

If I say cutting hands for theft is wrong and inhuman, is it considered hate speech?

We need to separate between race and belief;

Your race/ethnicity you get without choice and you cannot change it or be blamed for it.

However, ideologies need to be questioned and scrutinised;

Ideologies, opinions, ideas and beliefs should not have immunity from critical and analytic thinking, debates or common-sense.

This kind of immunity makes an ideology a monster without any accountability.