Advancing Tolerance and Non-Discrimination through Coalition Building and Co-operation

18-19 November 2015

Summary Report

Disclaimer: This report should neither be interpreted as official OSCE recommendations based on a consensus decision, nor as an opinion of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights or of any particular OSCE participating State. The content of this report reflects opinions expressed by participants in the meeting on 18-19 November 2015.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Dynamic civil societies form the backbone of healthy, stable democracies. Working together in coalitions can allow them to forge new partnerships and, ultimately, expand the scope and impact of their work. Civil society partners can collaborate closely in developing policies, advocacy strategies and tools to effectively address hate crimes and all other forms of intolerance and discrimination.

According to its mandate to support civil societies in their efforts to build inclusive partnerships, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) organized a conference on **"Advancing Tolerance and Non-Discrimination through Coalition Building and Co-operation"** from 18-19 November 2015 at the Hofburg Conference Center in Vienna and invited 50 participants from across the OSCE region to discuss the following questions: *What are the key factors that lead to sustainable and inclusive coalitions? What challenges do civil society groups face when they want to expand their networks? How can national responses to hate crime be improved through collaboration between civil society organizations and with governments?*

Recognizing that countering intolerance and discrimination must be a shared priority, the conference featured joint sessions with the National Points of Contact on Hate Crime (NPCs) in order to explore how to best establish channels of communication and cooperation between government officials and civil society actors. The discussions, presentations and interactive group work reflected a wide recognition of the importance of coalition building between civil society groups and governments with the goal of ending hate crime. At the same time, the participants emphasized the need for on-going dialogue between governmental and non-governmental actors to facilitate trust and relationship building and called on ODIHR to continue to play a pivotal role as a platform for exchange and capacity building.

In the **Opening Session,** Wade Henderson, President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a civil and human rights coalition in the United States with more than 200 national member organisations, addressed both civil society representatives and NPCs and underlined the importance of a robust infrastructure of non-governmental organisations to foster greater civic engagement and mutual respect between and among different groups that can collectively develop strategies to end anti-Semitism, racism, intolerance, and other forms of injustice.

During the **World Café,** Iman Abou-Atta, (Outreach Manager with Faith Matters), James Omolo (Founder of Afryka Connect), Geert Ates (Director of UNITED for Intercultural Action), and Olena Bonderenka (Project Manager at *No Borders!*), facilitated discussions around best practices and challenges to successful coalition building as well as ways to replicate successful models of coalitions.

In the panel discussion of **Joint Session II** on **'Examining how to best establish channels of communication and co-operation between government officials and civil society'**, Karen Stevens, NPC for the US, drew on the expertise of Michael Whine (Community

Security Trust, UK), Wirginja Price (NPC Poland) and Michael Cerulus (ILGA-Europe, Belgium) to illustrate ways to build partnerships between civil society and government stakeholders to effectively cooperate on ending hate crime.

During **Joint Session III**, both NPCs and CSOs worked together in small groups to develop practical ideas and recommendations on how to improve national responses to hate crime through collaboration between National Points of Contact on Hate Crime (NPCs) and Non-governmental Organisations.

The second day of the conference allowed insights into what coalitions can look like on the ground when good ideas are turned into action. During **Session IV** on **'Mapping the key elements of a collaborative and inclusive civil society approach to ending hate crime'** Stacy Burdett (Anti-Defamation League) facilitated a discussion with Tina Stavrinaki (Racist Violence Recording Network), Ismael Cortez Gomez (Phiren Amenca) and Irene Fedorovych (*No Borders!*) on best practices, selection of coalition partners and ways to overcome obstacles to building solid partnerships.

Session IV also provided **Country Case Studies** on coalition building in Serbia, delivered by Nevena Bajalica and Miško Stanišić (Terraforming Serbia), the United States, presented by June Zeitlin (The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights), and Hungary, presented by Cristina Ciabanu (MIGSZOL).

In **Session V**, civil society representatives were invited to work in small groups to develop and present recommendations on how to increase and improve the collaboration between civil society actors in their efforts to end hate crime and all other forms of intolerance and discrimination.

INTRODUCTION:

The Berlin+10 Conference on Anti-Semitism in November 2014 and previous civil society events organized at the margins of human dimension events highlighted the need for broad, inclusive and diverse civil society coalitions that support governments in their efforts to respond to and prevent hate crime and discrimination in all forms. Furthermore, OSCE participating States have agreed on developing a comprehensive approach to preventing and responding to hate crimes and discrimination and supporting civil society in several **OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions (MC Decision Nos. 13/2006, 10/2007, 9/2009, 3/2013),** as well as its **2014 Basel Declaration.**

Notwithstanding these commitments, it is clear that government responses to bias-motivated violence, intolerance and discrimination have been inadequate. Despite making official commitments to end hate crime and discrimination, many governments have yet to introduce the necessary legislative tools, carry out official monitoring of incidents or implement police training, educational, and community engagement programs that would contribute to a more robust response to hate crime.

For this reason, civil society, as a key partner in the struggle against discrimination and intolerance, can play an important role and can help to fill these gaps by pointing out the needed areas of improvement in government responses. In the effort to end hate crime, civil society groups and organizations can play an indispensable role in raising awareness and can use a variety of measures, ranging from help lines and victim support, political work and lobbying, monitoring and registration of hate crime and discrimination to advocating for more effective responses by the authorities. Enhanced communication and dialogue between participating States and civil society can advance the implementation of commitments and operational follow up at the national level. On the other hand, the relevant authorities can work with civil society to improve government responses to hate crime, acts of intolerance and discrimination.

The objectives of the highly interactive conference were:

- Sharing best practices and challenges in building coalitions in the OSCE region to work on ending hate crime, intolerance and discrimination;

- Mapping the key elements of a collaborative and inclusive civil society approach to ending hate crime, intolerance and discrimination, and;

- Examining how to best establish channels of communication and co-operation between governmental officials and civil society on the issues of intolerance and discrimination.

OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS OF WORKING SESSIONS:

Session I: World Café:

1. What are some of the good practices that lead to a successful coalition?

- Coalitions work best when all coalition partners recognise them as platforms for exchange of information and best practices;
- Coalitions that are built on respect and cultural sensitivity can become 'safe havens' for communities to interact and discuss what unites, rather than divides them. Efforts to advance inter-communal and inter-faith coalition building can bring communities closer together as they define their common goals and stand together in solidarity to defend them;
- Successful coalitions require diversity, but also clearly defined leadership and a distribution of tasks and responsibilities that corresponds to the capacities of coalition partners;
- Data is power: Hate crimes are often underreported or falsely described as hooliganism. Moreover, there may be a state-sanctioned denial that hate crimes are occurring. Coalitions of organisations that monitor and report hate crimes are thus in the position to raise the issue of hate crime while, at the same time, being able to add a human face to the statistics, as they can lend a voice to victims and vulnerable communities;
- Solidarity is a must, so is cultural sensitivity and respect for the needs, including the security needs, of other communities. Communities must stand up against hate crimes committed against not just their own group, but also against other communities and gather around the fact that hate crimes are universally unacceptable;
- The experience of hate can be the common ground. The fight against hate crime can connect groups and communities that have not worked together before.

2. What are the challenges to building successful coalitions?

- Collective solidarity is not a given, as a cross-community approach is often not genuinely applied. Distrust among communities and organisations often persists;
- Competition over funding and resources can stand in the way of building coalitions. Agendas may become donor-driven;
- A (perceived) imbalance of power among coalition partners;
- Refusal to share information among coalition partners;
- Governments sometimes fail to acknowledge the political agenda of religious groups, that are working for civil rights;
- The election of new governments brings new governmental counterparts into power, which can lead to the disruption of established channels of communication;

- Some governments refuse to work with minority groups, as they do not want to be associated with them;
- Conflicts between countries can negatively impact the work of Diaspora groups. In the context of conflict, NGOs must work together and gather around the issue of human rights;
- We live in polarized societies: There is conflict within, not just between countries. Distrust among communities and groups can only be overcome by bringing people together, thus enabling them to relate to each other's realities and experiences.

3. What factors lead to successful coalitions?

- Cross-border, cross-movement, cross-community approaches lead to the most inclusive coalitions;
- Cross-border coalitions can empower groups and communities in countries that are more hostile towards civil society;
- Encourage the cooperation between grassroots organisations working locally and established organisations operating regionally and nationally;
- Common values can be difficult to establish. Hate crime can be "a common enemy", and the collective struggle to end hate crime has the potential to unify a diverse range of civil society groups;
- Open-mindedness and trust are key: Potential coalition partners have to make an effort to understand and relate to each other;
- Genuinely engage with coalition partners: share data, offer each other training, share contacts, share information on access to funding;
- Coalitions of civil society groups must reach out to the public, be visible through effective media and campaign work, send the message of working together out to the public, thus lead by example, especially when it comes to cross-community work;
- Governments ought to acknowledge and engage with networks and coalitions of civil society groups, rather than only rely on their own networks with think tanks as sources for information;
- The compilation of a 'roadmap' or guide to coalition building among governmental and non-governmental actors can further underscore the factors that lead to successful coalitions and pave the way to more effective models of cooperation.

4. How can successful models of coalitions be replicated?

- The exchange of information is key: Coalitions must serve as platforms for dialogue where coalition partners can learn from each other as well as work towards common goals and formulate solutions to overcome challenges;
- Capacity building is an integral part of meaningful engagement and interaction among coalition partners. More established organizations empower newly emerging civil society groups and initiatives by working with them;
- There is no single blueprint for successful coalitions: The local context always impacts efforts to work in partnerships. What works in one country, can go wrong in

another. Sticking to one format that worked is therefore not the most successful way of replicating models;
- Providing space for growth and inclusion must be at the heart of building coalitions while keeping in mind what is realistic and achievable in the local context.

Joint Session II:

Examining how to best establish channels of communication and cooperation between government officials and civil society. Hate crime as a case study:

Facilitator:	**Karen Stevens,** NPC USA
Panellist I:	**Wirginia Prejs,** NPC Poland
Panellist II:	**Michael Whine,** Director of Government & International Affairs, Community Security Trust (CST)
Panellist III:	**Michael Cerulus,** Senior Policy Officer, ILGA-Europe

In his opening remarks, **Michael Whine** invoked OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions that call on participating States to enhance their efforts to counter hate crimes, as well as to the 2012 EU Victims Directive, which encourages governments and civil society organizations and groups to work together. He stressed that governments must reach out to civil society organisations and vice versa, rather than working against each other. Moreover, in order to ensure that hate crimes are recognised and recorded as such, civil society and law enforcement must engage with each other.

Wirginja Prejs elaborated on the direct engagement of the Polish government with civil society in the field of monitoring, stressing that civil society was an important source of information on the prevalence of bias-motivated violence. She highlighted the role of civil society in countering underreporting by providing third party reporting, which is particularly important when it comes to hate crimes committed against minority groups who may be reluctant to report cases directly to the police. Wirginja Prejs described an information campaign designed to raise awareness on hate crimes, which was implemented by the Polish government in collaboration with civil society organisations. She pointed out that the success of the campaign was largely due to the fact that the government managed to gain access to large networks of NGOs because of its partnerships with them.

Michael Cerulus highlighted the importance of research to explore the root causes of underreporting. He identified fear of the police as one of the prime reasons why victims of hate crimes fail to report cases. In order to counter underreporting and to recognise the nature and prevalence of hate crimes, law enforcement and civil society groups must work together, especially in light of the fact that hate crimes continue to pose a threat to security in the OSCE region. Moreover, he emphasised the need for training for law enforcement and civil society to enable them to recognise and effectively respond to hate crimes.

In the ensuing discussion, the participants emphasised the importance to build trust between law enforcement and communities, for example through the designation of liaison officers

within the police to whom cases of bias-motivated violence can be reported. The importance of accurate data was also stressed in order to understand the prevalence of hate crime and formulate adequate responses. Participants also discussed the advantages of establishing working groups, composed of victim groups, law enforcement and Ministry of the Interior staff to establish and institutionalise channels of communication.

Session IV:

Mapping the key elements of a collaborative and inclusive civil society approach to ending hate crime and discrimination:

Facilitator: **Stacy Burdett,** Director of Government and National Affairs, Anti-Defamation League

Questions addressed:

What are the key elements of a successful coalition?

Input: **Tina Stavrinaki,** Assistant Coordinator, Racist Violence Recording Network

Tina Stavrinaki identified the need to have a clear objective when organisations decide to work together in a coaliton as the first key element of a successful coalitions. The Racist Violence Recording Network was established as there was no effective hate crime recording mechanism in place in Greece. The Network started out collecting data, then expanded its scope of activities to include advocacy for legislative change and victim support. As the second key element, Tina Stavrinaki pointed to the need to agree on common operational principles. All members of a coalition should recognise their duty to share relevant information. Thirdly, coalitions must disseminate and publicize the successes that result from their partnerships. This can potentially increase funding for coalition members to expand the scope of their activities.

In the follow-up discussion, participants pointed to the fact that working in coalitions can bring communities closer together, thus contribute to improving inter-communal relations and strengthening social cohesion at the local level. Sharing contacts was identified as a fundamental benefit of working in partnerships. The participants also raised the question of whom to exclude from potential coalitions, such as organizations expressing anti-Semitic sentiments, and agreed that the bar of non-justifiable cooperation should be set as low as possible.

How can civil society actors strengthen collaboration and enhance partnerships to build inclusive movements?

Input: **Ismael Cortes Gomez,** Delegate, Phiren Amenca International Network

Ismael Cortes Gomez elabored on the Project 'Europe of Diasporas', implemented by the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS), the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), and Phiren Amenca, an international network of Roma and non-Roma volunteers.

This coaltion brings together different diaspora groups that gather around a common agenda to advance education, the promotion of art and cultural heritage and advocacy. Ismael Cortez Gomez also underlined the importance of data collection, however adding that only adequate analysis of collected data can lead to informed action.

During the ensuing discussion, participants underscored that inclusive coalitions ought to include minority groups and communities to make sure that their profiles were raised and their voices heard. Moreover, as communities and civil society groups build partnerships, they can magnify their voices and demands and, ultimately, magnify the impact of their work.

What are the lessons learned from past partnership experiences that can inform civil societies' work to build strong and diverse networks?

Input: **Irene Fedorovych,** Coordinator, *No Borders!*

Irene Fedorvych gave insights into the work of the Diversity Initiative, a formal coalition of NGOs that monitor hate crimes and collect data. The coalition was first composed of ethnic and religious minority groups, then grew to include LGBT rights organisations. As a national coalition working to end discrimination, it now also represents Roma, Jewish communities, and people of African descent. This magnitude of members has enabled them to successfully advocate for legislative change. Irene Fedorovych underlined the need to constantly evaluate activities, assess existing partnerships and, if necessary, revise goals and objectives.

In the follow-up discussion, participants discussed the potential of working with non-traditional coalition partners, including media. Building coalitions with 'unusual suspects' can pave the way to greater inclusivity as well as greater visibility and better opportunities for outreach.

Session V: Country Case Studies:

Serbia: Nevena Bajalica, Executive Director, **Miško Stanišić,** Creative Pedagogy & New Media Developer, Terraforming Serbia

Terraforming develops international socially engaged projects and cultural exchange with the aim to support local cultural initiatives in strengthening human rights, diversity and tolerance, and combating discrimination, racism and xenophobia, especially through education.

Neneva Bajalica and **Miško Stanišić** pointed out that in their work they strive to work in long-term coalitions with governmental bodies, public institutions, libraries, museums, universities and schools, minority communities, media professionals and CSOs. In their view, coalition building means combining capacities as well as gaining access to data, expertise and target groups that would be out of reach in the absence of partnerships with other relevant stakeholders.

United States of America: June Zeitlin, Human Rights Director, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights is a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States. Beginning in 1950 with 30 organizations, mostly civil rights and labour groups, The Leadership Conference has grown in numbers, scope, and effectiveness.

June Zeitlin argued that building a coalition with the goal to end hate crimes can be an example of how a coalition can work best by engaging a wide range of stakeholders from different communities and formulating a common objective.

Hungary: Cristina Ciobanu, Delegate, Migrant Solidarity Group of Hungary (MIGSZOL)

The Migrant Solidarity Group of Hungary (MIGSZOL) is an informal, independent group of Hungarians, immigrants and refugees advocating for the realization of political and social rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Hungary at the grass roots level. MIGSZOL strives contribute to social change by campaigning against deportation and detention and by raising awareness of rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

Cristina Ciobanu stressed that coalition building enhances the capacity of her network to lend a voice to underrepresented minority groups in an increasingly hostile political climate.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendations to improve national responses to hate crime through collaboration between the National Points of Contact on Hate Crime (NPCs) and Non-governmental and Civil Society Organisations:

- Encourage police and civil society groups to exchange data on hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents;
- Encourage the establishment of mechanisms and platforms to enable communities to report hate crimes. Discussions between communities and law enforcement should take place regularly and become institutionalized, i.e. through formalized agreements between NGOs and governmental bodies, in order to work together on practical solutions to end hate crime and discrimination;
- Develop seminars and (joint) training initiatives on hate crime for law enforcement (front line officers, middle management and senior management), prosecutors and judges. Training and seminars should be led by NGOs and affected communities;
- Establish (multicultural) networks of communities, which also encompass religious groups with key government stakeholders, including at the grass roots level;
- Work to overcome the imbalance of access to funds and the friction over funds;
- NPCs indicated that they have a rather confined mandate. Look into ways to create a stronger mandate/role for NPCs to enable them to build bridges between law enforcement and civil society;
- Continue to facilitate dialogue between civil society and government officials, including NPCs to further advance trust building, especially among law enforcement and vulnerable communities;
- Encourage academic research into prevalence, root causes, consequences of hate crime in order to formulate and implement most effective remedies and prevention measures;
- Encourage police to apply a victim-based approach in order to foster trust between affected communities and law enforcement, and ultimately, counter under-reporting;
- Establish monitoring mechanisms to record and report on hate crime. Submit findings to ODIHR's Hate Crime Report. The more visibility hate crime gets, the more victims will feel encouraged to report incidents;
- Encourage governments to make national hate crime statistics publicly accessible on an annual basis. Statistics published online illustrating the prevalence of hate crime and bias-motivated violence can be utilized by NGOs and civil society groups to influence policy makers;
- Share best practices, successful campaigns and lessons learned, for example from Denmark, where police engage in formalized partnerships with local communities and take part in trainings on how to address hate crimes and hate speech;
- Empower victim groups and vulnerable communities. Ongoing dialogue between government officials, at local, regional and national level, helps to raise the profile of affected communities and can enable to them influence legislation;

- Encourage exchange between governmental and non-governmental actors across the OSCE region, i.e. through study visits, which could be led by NGOs and supported by ODIHR;
- Build a working group bringing together NPCs and CSOs, which meets regularly and can become a platform to exchange data, but also to discuss working definitions for phenomena connected to hate crimes;
- Encourage collaboration between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to address ineffective legislation, and;
- Enhance legal support for victims. Governments should strengthen collaboration with organizations that specialize in providing legal assistance and other services to victim groups.

Recommendations to increase the collaboration between civil society actors:

- Map out a broad list of potential coalition partners;
- Agree on common goals of the coalition and clarify the tasks and responsibility of each partner;
- Focus on common ground rather than differences and formulate terms of reference as broad as possible so as not to exclude people;
- Formalize the establishment of a coalition through proper documentation, i.e. through a *Memorandum of Understanding*, which can serve as a common framework for action;
- Continuously evaluate on-going activities and assess the objectives and activities of the coalition. Be ready to re-set the agenda if necessary;
- Focus on relationship building as the first step of coalition building. The creation of solid and sustainable coalitions requires mutual understanding and trust;
- To achieve maximum inclusivity, look for "unusual suspects", including media to increase visibility and maximize possibilities for outreach;
- Involve public figures, i.e. celebrities and sports figures, as potential figureheads of campaigns to gain visibility;
- Use ODIHR to help raise relevant issues with government stakeholders;
- Understand and acknowledge that there will different levels of engagement, depending on the varying capacities of coalition partners;
- Create a database of campaign work to enhance the possibility to learn from each other and share information and tools, which is a crucial benefit of working together in coalitions;
- Keep your own identity, but recognize and respect others. Cultural sensitivity is the backbone for coalitions in which partners stand in solidarity for a common goal, and;
- Be patient. Building trust and partnerships takes time.

Recommendations for ODIHR support

- Publish and distribute the summary report, including the recommendations;
- Support the implementation of recommendations formulated during working group sessions;
- Continue to serve as a platform for dialogue and information sharing between civil society and governments by hosting more meetings designed to advance cooperation between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders across the OSCE region;
- Organize workshops and trainings on how to build successful coalitions. These workshops can bring together civil society and government officials;
- Support capacity building of organizations in countries where hate crimes laws are not adequate (Hungary, Moldova, Ukraine);
- Raise victim-support issues;
- Develop a database mapping existing coalitions in the OSCE region;
- Prepare a publication, tool kit or 'roadmap', providing guidance to governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to work together on ending hate crime and other forms of discrimination;
- Continue to provide support for legislative changes in participating States, where hate crime legislation is ineffective;
- Create an online platform for NGOs to share best practices and information;
- Organize a follow-up conference (suggestions: on progress, on history of successful coalitions, on the foreseen publication of a toolkit, etc.);
- Continue to engage with young activists;
- Organize a side event on coalition building at the HDIM 2016, and;
- Provide an update on the role and function of National Points of Contact on Hate Crime (NPCs).

ANNEX:

List of Participating Civil Society Representatives:

Ms	BRONKHORST	Suzette	International Network Against Cyber Hate	Amsterdam/Netherlands
Mr	EISSENS	Ronald	International Network Against Cyber Hate	Amsterdam/Netherlands
Ms	JOVANOVICS	Eszter	Hungarian Civil Liberties Union's Roma Program	Budapest/Hungary
Ms	BERGER	Deidre	AJC Berlin Ramer Institute for German-Jewish Relations	Berlin/Germany
Ms	LENCHOVSKA	Anna	Congress for National Minorities	Kiev/Ukraine
Ms	GROSSU	Aliona	Jewish Community of the Republic of Moldova	Chisinau/Moldova
Ms	BVUMBURAH	Hedwig	Cross Culture International Foundation	La Valetta/Malta
Mr	WHINE	Michael	Community Security Trust (CST)	London/UK
Mr	GLOBA	Bogdan	All-Ukrainian NGO FULCRUM	Kiev/Ukraine
Ms	ABOU ATTA	Iman	Faith Matters; Head of Middle East & North Africa Programmes	London/UK
Mr	DOLINSKY	Eduard	United Jewish Community of Ukraine; Director	Kiev/Ukraine
Ms	GILBERT	Andrea	Greek Helsinki Monitor	Athens/Greece
Ms	STAVRINAKI	Stamatia	Racist Violence Recording Network	Athens/Greece
Ms	ZEITLIN	June	The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Director	Washington DC/USA
Mr	OMOLO	James	Afryka Connect Foundation; Director	Warsaw/Poland
Ms	SONNINO	Melissa	CEJI	Brussels/Belgium
Mr	GRIFFITHS	Miro	European Network on Independent Living	Liverpool/UK
Mr	McKAIGUE	Michael Stewart	personal assistant to Miro Griffiths	Liverpool/UK
Ms	CERULUS	Michael	ILGA Europe; Senior Policy Officer	Brussels/Belgium
Mr	ATES	Geert	UNITED for Intercultural Action	Amsterdam/Netherlands
Ms	FEDOROVYCH	Irene	No Borders!	Kiev/Ukraine
Ms	ROZALSKAYA	Maria	SOVA Center	Moscow/Russia
Ms	JARDI	Pia	Muslim Women Association	Helsinki/Finland
Mr	ABDRAMANE	Keita	NGO Fatima	Chisinau/Moldova
Mr	DOMBOS	Tamas	Háttér Society	Budapest/Hungary
Mr	FISCHER	Benjamin	European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS)	Brussels/Belgium
Prof.	PAP	Andras Laszlo	Hungarian Academy of Sciences Centre for Social Sciences Institute for Legal Studies	Budapest/Hungary
Mr	HENDERSON	Wade	The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; The Leadership Conference Education Fund	Washington D.C./US
Ms	BONDARENKO	Olena	No Borders!	Kiev/Ukraine
Mr	LOPANDZA	Therese	African Center	Kiev/Ukraine
Ms	NWOLISA	Cordelia		Warsaw/Poland
Ms	SALIM	Rabia	Netzwerk gegen Diskriminierung und Islamfeindlichkeit	Berlin/Germany
Mr	SIMMONS	Michael	International Human Rights Advocacy and	Budapest/Hungary

			Community Organizing	
Mr	TABAGARI	Giorgi	Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH)	Warsaw/Poland
Mr	ISSA	Nasser	Gabooye Minority Organization Europe and North America	London/UK
Mr	KUSCHE	Robert	RAA Sachsen e.V.	Dresden/Germany
Ms	CIOBANU	Cristina	Migszol! Migrant solidarity group (Hungary)	Budapest/Hungary
Mr	CORTES GOMEZ	Ismael	Europe of Diasporas/Phiren Amenca International Network	Granada/Spain
Ms	BAJALICA	Nevena	Terraforming Serbia	Belgrade/Serbia
Mr	DAVTYAN	Ruben	AGBU Europe	Denmark
Ms	BURDETT	Stacy	Government and National Affairs Director/Anti-Defamation League	Washington/USA
Ms	GOUDSWAARD	Sylvia	RADAR NL	Amsterdam/Netherlands
Mr	BODIBE	Setumo	Walter Ry	Helsinki/Finland
Mr	JARDI	Abdessalam	Finnish Muslim Association	Helsinki/Finland
Mr	RANTAKARI	Ilari	Finnish Muslim Association	Helsinki/Finland
Mr	DINC	Bilal	COJEP International	Lyon/France
Ms	MOROZ	Liana	International Renaissance Foundation, Program Initiative Manager	Kiev/Ukraine
Mr	HAMMELBURG	Alexander	COC Netherlands	Amsterdam/ Netherlands
Mr	STANISIC	Misko	Terraforming The Netherlands	Amsterdam/Netherlands
Ms	DURMAZ	Cécile	Organization Racism Islamophobia Watch (ORIW)	France
Mr	OĞUZ	Muhammet	World Justice Forum	Ankara/Turkey

List of Participating National Points of Contact on Hate Crime (NPCs):

Alberto	Agostinelli	NPC (Ministry of the Interior)	Italy
Yeradil	Akhmetov	NPC (General Prosecutor's Office)	Kazakhstan
Sofia	Axell	NPC (National Council for Crime Prevention-BRA)	Sweden
Lina	Bartaševičiūtė	NPC (Ministry of the Interior)	Lithuania
Darren	Coventry Howlett	NPC (Garda Síochána)	Ireland
Maria	Dalla	NPC (Court of First Instance of Athens)	Greece
Raffaella	Di Noia	Council of European Bishops' Conferences	Holy See
Jan	Elleby	Danish National Police	Denmark
Tuba	Ergul	Ministry of Justice	Turkey
Karoline	Fernández De la Hoz	NPC (Observatory for Racism and Xenophobia)	Spain
Ganzorig	Gombosuren	NPC (General Prosecutor's Office)	Mongolia
Antonio	García Gómez	NPC (Observatory for Racism and Xenophobia)	Spain
Vaheh	Gevorgian	NPC (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	Armenia
Parvine	Ghadami	Ministry of Justice	France
Danuta	Głowacka-Mazur	NPC (Ministry of the Interior)	Poland
Gylfi	Gylfason	NPC (National Commissioner of the Police)	Iceland
Sara	Heissel Hansen	Danish National Police	Denmark
Pia	Holm	NPC (National Police Board)	Finland
Baki	Huyseinov	NPC (Commission for Protection against Discrimination)	Bulgaria
Evgenija	Ilieva	NPC (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	FYROM
Kateřina	Jamborová	NPC (Ministry of the Interior)	Czech Republic
Mario	Janeček	NPC (Ministry of Security)	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tanel	Kalmet	NPC (Ministry of Justice)	Estonia
Yurdagül	Keskin	Ministry of Justice	Turkey
Oleksii	Kriukov	NPC (Ministry of Internal Affairs)	Ukraine
Daniel	Milo	NPC (Ministry of the Interior)	Slovakia
Ognjen	Mitrović	NPC (Ministry of Justice)	Montenegro
Sidsel	Moeller Hansen	Danish National Police	Denmark
Nikolaus	Müllershausen	NPC (Federal Ministry of Interior)	Germany
Wirginia	Prejs	NPC (Ministry of the Interior)	Poland
Mihaela	Raluca Mereuță	NPC (Ministry of Justice)	Romania
Eugen	Rusu	NPC (General Prosecutor's Office)	Moldova
Salome	Shengelia	General Prosecutor's Office	Georgia
Vladimir	Šoć	NPC (Office for Human and Minority Rights)	Serbia
Branko	Sočanac	NPC (Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities)	Croatia
Karen	Stevens	NPC (United States Department of Justice)	United States
David	Stobie	Ministry of Justice	United Kingdom
Zoltán	Tallódi	NPC (Ministry of Justice)	Hungary
Stoyan	Tchalachkanov	NPC (Commission for Protection against Discrimination)	Bulgaria
Barbara	Wohlfahrt-Levov	Federal Ministry of the Interior	Austria

Conference: Advancing Tolerance and Non-Discrimination through Coalition Building and Co-operation

18-19 November 2015
Hofburg Conference Centre, Vienna

Agenda

In recent years serious discrimination has continued across the OSCE region, which manifests itself, inter alia, through hate-motivated violence and other acts of intolerance targeting religious and racial minorities, migrants, LGBT people, Roma and Sinti and other vulnerable groups. A particular concern is the lack of a proper response by key institutions and engagement with civil society.

The Berlin+10 Conference on Anti-Semitism in November 2014 and previous civil society events organized at margins of human dimension events, highlighted the need for broad, inclusive and diverse civil society coalitions that support governments in their efforts to respond to and prevent hate crime and discrimination. The scourge of hate violence continues to assume new forms and expressions which, along with other acts of intolerance and discrimination, pose a threat to personal security and, therefore, to overall security in the OSCE region and beyond.

OSCE participating States have agreed on developing a comprehensive approach to preventing and responding to hate crimes and discrimination and supporting civil society in several OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions (MC Decision Nos. 13/2006, 10/2007, 9/2009, 3/2013), as well as its 2014 Basel Declaration.

Notwithstanding, these commitments, it is clear that government responses to bias-motivated violence, intolerance and discrimination have been inadequate. Despite making official commitments to end hate crime and discrimination, many governments have yet to introduce necessary legislative tools, carry out official monitoring of incidents or implement police training, educational, and community engagement programs that would contribute to a more robust response to these problems.

For this reason, civil society, as a key partner in the struggle against discrimination and intolerance, can play an important role and can help to fill these gaps by pointing out the needed areas of improvement in government responses. In the effort to end hate crime, civil society groups and organizations can play an indispensable role in raising awareness and can use a variety of measures, ranging from help lines and victim support, political work and lobbying, monitoring and registration of hate crime and discrimination to advocating more effective responses by the authorities. Enhanced communication and dialogue between participating States and civil society can advance implementation of commitments and operational follow up at the national level. On the other hand, the relevant authorities can

work with civil society to improve the government responses to hate crime, acts of intolerance and discrimination.

As outlined above, OSCE participating States have recognized that a robust civil society is invaluable in these efforts. This is why there is an urgent need to help support the existing good work undertaken by civil society coalitions and encouraging the building of additional strong civil society inter-communal and interfaith networks to end all forms of hate crime and discrimination.

Recognizing the critical role of civil society, participating States have made commitments, including MC Decision 6/06 to work with ODIHR to support civil society as an effective partner. That is why ODIHR has a mandate and obligation to encourage civil societies to create inclusive partnerships and strengthen dialogue and co-operation with state authorities in order to promote mutual respect and understanding with the goal of ending hate crime, intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE region.

The objectives of the meeting are threefold:

- Sharing best practices and challenges in building coalitions in the OSCE region to work on ending hate crime, intolerance and discrimination;

- Mapping the key elements of a collaborative and inclusive civil society approach to ending hate crime, intolerance and discrimination, and

- Examining how to best establish channels of communication and co-operation between governmental officials and civil society on the issues of intolerance and discrimination.

Day 1, Wednesday, 18 November

8:30 – 9:00	Welcome Coffee
9:00 - 9:30	**Joint National Points of Contact on Hate Crimes (NPC) and Civil Society Opening Session** **Opening remarks: Cristina Finch, Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, OSCE/ODIHR** **Keynote speaker: Wade Henderson, President of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights**
9:30 – 11:00	**Session I – Sharing best practices and challenges in building coalitions in the OSCE region to work on ending hate crime, intolerance and discrimination** The struggle against hate crimes, other forms of intolerance and discrimination must be inclusive. Dynamic civil societies are a cornerstone in healthy, stable democracies and are crucial in mobilizing citizens, promoting democratic values and holding governments accountable to their human rights obligations. By working in coalitions, civil society partners can collaborate closely in developing policies, positions, advocacy strategies and tools for change

to end hate crimes, other forms of intolerance and discrimination. Coalitions can be expanded to include representatives of police agencies, government officials and others with whom ongoing collaboration is important. The aim of encouraging civil society coalitions and partnerships is not only sharing information, networking and collaboration on specific projects, but also to generate mechanisms for enabling them to participate in the creation and promotion of security and justice policies.

This session will provide an opportunity to address challenges and exchange good practices in relation to ending hate crime, acts of intolerance and discrimination through coalition building. It is an opportunity to give voice to concerns, share experiences and express needs with regard to this issue. The exchange of information and good practices will be achieved by bringing together civil society representatives from across the OSCE region to share experiences, best practices and lessons learned.

The format will be the "World Café" method in order to facilitate maximum exchange of views and ideas.

Process facilitation: Christina Sell, Adviser on Civil Society Relations. OSCE/ODIHR

Questions to be discussed:

- What are some of the best practices that lead to a successful coalition?

Facilitator: Iman Abou-Atta, Outreach Manager, Faith Matters

- What are some of the challenges to building coalitions?

Facilitator: James Omolo, Co-founder of Afryka Connect Foundation

- What are some examples of successful coalitions and what factors led to their success?

Facilitator: Geert Ates, Director of UNITED for Intercultural Action

- How can civil society organizations work together to replicate successful models of coalitions?

Facilitator: Olena Bondarenko, Project Manager, *No Borders!*

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 **Session I continued: Sharing best practices and challenges in building coalitions in the OSCE region to work on ending hate crime, intolerance and discrimination**

Presentation of findings of "World Café, followed by open discussion

Facilitator: Cristina Finch, Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, OSCE/ODIHR

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00 **Joint Session II: Examining how to best establish channels of communication and co-operation between governmental officials and civil society. Case study on hate crime.**

Panel discussion:
Facilitator: Karen Stevens, NPC USA

- **Panellist I: Wirginia Prejs, NPC Poland**
- **Panellist II: Michael Whine, Director of Government & International Affairs, Community Security Trust (CST)**
- **Panellist III: Michael Cerulus, Senior Policy Officer, ILGA-Europe**

Most participating States are not fulfilling their OSCE commitments to end hate crime. Further, although most governments have a legal criminal framework to address hate crimes, many reports highlight a worrying trend of underreporting, which is one of the reasons that victims often lack confidence and trust in public authorities. Governments must make effective use of civil society's expertise and experience to address these issues. Building up partnerships and enhancing co-operation between government and civil society can be accomplished through the creation of permanent consultative platforms as well as informal mechanisms of cooperation with civil society organizations. Creating local partnerships between civil society and law-enforcement agencies in order to report regularly on issues of concern and follow up on incidents can also serve as an early warning of rising tensions and enable proper resource allocation to that end. Where official data collection is ineffective, data from civil society organizations and other monitors can help indicate the needed political action or new legislation necessary to address the issue.

Questions to be discussed:

- How can public authorities and civil society organizations work together to identify and address gaps in participating State's response to hate crime?
- How can public authorities and civil society organizations involve and empower victims to report hate crimes and protect them?
- How can civil society be involved as a partner in the process of official data collection?

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:30 **Joint Session III – Group work: Response to Hate Crime Case Study**
The third session will provide an opportunity for civil society and OSCE National Points of Contact on Hate Crime to work in small

groups to discuss challenges and exchange good practices in civil society and government cooperation in the work to end hate crime and other forms of intolerance and discrimination. It is an opportunity to give voice to concerns, share experiences and express needs with regard to this issue.

Participants will be asked to develop three practical ideas for improving national responses to hate crime through collaboration between NPCs and NGOs.

17:30 - 19:00 **Presentations by small groups; wrap up.**
Ratsaal

Facilitation: Christina Sell, Adviser on Civil Society Relations, OSCE/ODIHR

19:00 - 20:00 **Reception, Hofburg**

Day 2, Thursday, 19th November

9:45 – 10:15 Welcome Coffee

10:15 – 10:30 **Welcoming remarks, summary of Day 1**

Cristina Finch, Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, OSCE/ODIHR

10:30 - 11:45 **Session IV: Mapping the key elements of a collaborative and inclusive civil society approach to ending hate crime and discrimination**

OSCE commitments have underscored the need for broad, inclusive and diverse civil society coalitions that support governments in their efforts to respond to and prevent hate crime, other forms of intolerance and discrimination. Countering intolerance and discrimination must be a shared priority that requires joint responses of civil society actors working with governments, law enforcement, and international organizations. Existing coalitions across the OSCE region have shown that when civil society builds diverse and inclusive movements, their ability to advocate for meaningful change is enhanced. Given the important role that civil society plays in advocating for effective government responses to discrimination and supporting victims, addressing how best to build these networks is key.

Facilitator: Stacy Burdett, Director of Government and National Affairs, Anti-Defamation League

Questions to be discussed:

- What are the key elements of a successful coalition?
  Input: Tina Stavrinaki, Assistant Coordinator, Racist Violence Recording Network

- How can civil society actors strengthen collaboration and enhance partnerships to build inclusive movements?
  Input: Ismael Cortes Gomez, Delegate, Phiren Amenca International Network

- What are the lessons learned from past partnership experiences that can inform civil societies' work to build strong and diverse networks?
  Input: Irene Fedorovych, Coordinator, No Borders!

Discussion after each input

11:45 – 12:00 Coffee Break (outside Ratsaal)

12:00 – 13:00 **Session V: Mapping the key elements of a collaborative and inclusive civil society approach to ending hate crime and discrimination (continuation)**

Country case studies:

1. **Serbia: Nevena Bajalica, Executive Director, Terraforming Serbia**
2. **United States: June Zeitlin, Director, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights**
3. **Hungary: Cristina Ciobanu, Delegate, MIGSZOL**

Facilitator: Christina Sell, Adviser on Civil Society Relations, OSCE/ODIHR

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30-15:30 **Session V – Group work: Building a successful coalition**
The fifth session will provide an opportunity for civil society representatives to work in small groups to discuss challenges and exchange good practices in forming civil society coalitions to work on intolerance and discrimination. It is an opportunity to give voice to concerns, share experiences and express needs with regard to this issue.

Participants will be asked to develop three practical ideas for increasing their collaboration with other civil society actors.

15:30-17:00 **Presentation by small groups; summarization of recommendations,**

Closing *(followed by informal reception)*

Facilitator: Cristina Finch, Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, OSCE/ODIHR