



5280 Coalition

OSCE 2015 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Working Session 12: Combating hate crimes and ensuring effective protection against discrimination

Mr/Ms. Moderator, ladies and gentlemen, thank you.

By the OSCE definition, the act of a “hate crime” must be a crime under the criminal code of the legal jurisdiction in which it is committed.

But what we see, ladies and gentlemen, is the tendency to label “hurt feelings” and so called “insult” as “hate crimes”. But in the rough and tumble politics of free societies, there is no right or guarantee to be “hurt feelings and insult free”.

Too often, it is special interest groups or incumbent politicians who label the remarks of their opposition as “hate speech” and “discrimination” only in an effort to silence them.

The Act for America 5280 Coalition would like to remind the member states that free discussion is an integral part of the political process and must be preserved from any and all restrictions, no matter how well intentioned .

The ACT for America 5280 Coalition also would like to remind member states that no group, especially religious groups that venture onto the political stage, are immune from nor deserve a free pass form criticism or critical examination.

Thank You Mr/MS Moderator and ladies and gentlemen