

Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY MR. FRANÇOIS ALABRUNE,  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE  
TO THE OSCE, AT THE 930th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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In the context of the OSCE's commitments in the area of combating all forms of discrimination, my delegation would like to draw participating States' attention to the French Government's adoption on 31 October of a programme of action on combating violence and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

This programme is the outcome of extensive consultation with organizations, social partners and elected officials, within an inter-ministerial framework. Through it, the State is implementing a co-ordinated policy on combating homophobia for the first time, based on the following priorities.

**Combating violence**

The Government will prepare a public statement on homophobia statistics annually. To ensure that no one hangs back from lodging a complaint about an incident of homophobic violence or discrimination, an information campaign will be launched in 2013. Multidisciplinary training sessions for police officers, gendarmes and magistrates on combating these forms of violence will be held from the beginning of the 2013 academic year. Interview templates will be developed to facilitate the receipt of complaints. The "SOS homophobia" hotline will be strengthened, and the inter-ministerial mission on combating cults ("*Miviludes*") will be instructed to be on the watch for "conversion therapies" that claim to "cure" homosexuality.

**Promoting changed thinking and attitudes**

Issues related to sexual orientation will be dealt with more in school curricula. Organizations offering interventions against homophobia in the school environment will receive national approval. Work on preventing suicide in young people will be carried out by the Ministry of Education.

**Acting to combat discrimination in everyday life**

The State will begin actively combating discrimination in the workplace in the public and private sectors. The Charter for the Promotion of Equality in the Civil Service will be

reviewed in the context of the social agenda. This will reinforce equal rights and combating discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

**Relaunching the international offensive on the universal decriminalization of homosexuality**

France will support initiatives in this area within the United Nations, including a resolution, relying on southern partners. Within the OSCE, we will continue to advocate for manifestations of hatred and intolerance based on sexual orientation or gender identity to feature more prominently in the activities of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on combating intolerance and discrimination. Protection will be strengthened for asylum-seekers at risk in their countries of origin because of their homosexuality. Specific training on this will be given to the relevant officials at the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (*Office Français de Protection de Réfugiés et Apatrides - OFPRA*). Finally, France will continue to contribute financially to the international Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Support Fund, which supports initiatives on local public awareness-raising and on advocating and defending the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

A monitoring committee will be put together to review the requirements for implementing this plan.