



26 September 2013 at “Freedom of religion and beliefs I” session Recommendations to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of OSCE from Muslim Problem Research Center to improve the situation in the sphere of freedom of religion and beliefs in Russia 2013.

Russian anti-extremist legislation passed in 2002 offers a fertile ground for discrimination of Muslims and infringement of their freedom of religion and belief.

In this regard we recommend:

1. ODIHR to join the recommendations of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe which voiced necessity to clarify the Russian extremist legislation, as it has no clear wording of the definition of extremism that allows arbitrarily interpret the law leading to outrage against non-violent non-registered religious organizations and Muslims in particular.
2. To abolish the extremist legislation in its current form also tools based on it such as lists of banned religious organizations and lists of banned religious materials until the significant adjustments to the law in accordance with international standards be made.
3. To give the right of rehabilitation to all citizens of Russia who had previously been prosecuted on the basis of such an ambiguous extremist legislation.
4. Russia to pass from toughening of punitive measures in the sphere of freedom of religion and belief to warning measures.

5. To create national platform for the possibility to build a dialogue between the government and non-registered religious organizations including Islamic organizations.

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