



PC.NGO/21/10

28 June 2010

ENGLISH only

OSCE HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION
Recommendations
(Astana, 29 –30 June 2010)

Astana, 28 June 2010

COJEP International in cooperation with EMISCO is glad to make some recommendations from the Civil Society side regarding the High Level Conference in Astana.

The loss of confidence between law officers and Muslim communities is strengthened by the **lack of reporting on segregated specific hate crimes** which target this group. Therefore, they stop to complain. This observation leads us to invite States first to stop demonizing Muslim Communities because this creates a climate of intolerance where **Muslims become more vulnerable to hate crimes**. Biased political discourse and biased media reporting without being challenged encourages the perpetrators of Anti-Muslim hate crimes.

- Therefore, relevant international organizations in general, and the ODIHR in particular, should **support the development of a working definition of intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and Islamophobia**, with the objective of more effective implementation of international commitments in this field.

- Participating States of the OSCE are requested to adopt a **specific OSCE Ministerial Decision** on measures that must be taken in order to combat intolerance and discrimination against Muslims at the national, regional and international levels.

- The upcoming Chairmanship of the OSCE is asked to organize a **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims**.

- All countries are encouraged to **develop and to vigorously implement action plans to combat intolerance and discrimination against Muslims**, in consultation and co-operation with the ODIHR, other relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and specialized national bodies dealing with this issue.

- Participating States attention is drawn to the need to **collect and maintain data on incidents of hate crimes motivated by intolerance and discrimination against Muslims**. In that respect, **support to civil society initiatives** that aim to respond and to prevent anti-Muslim hate crimes should be stressed.

- The ODIHR is requested to produce a **position paper on the recent prohibition of construction of minarets in Switzerland**.

- We call on participating States to **implement their commitments to guarantee, without any discrimination, the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief**.

- We call on participating States to **fully respect international human rights standards while fighting terrorism, and take necessary measures in order to prevent discriminatory anti-terrorism measures, in particular racial and religious profiling**.

- We encourage ODIHR to enhance its co-operation with all intergovernmental actors, including the OIC and the UN Alliance of Civilizations, in its efforts to promote tolerance, respect, mutual understanding and non-discrimination.

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