

ENGLISH only

TO: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
FROM: The Rev. Mario Bergner, Redeemed Lives, Inc.  
RE: Overbroad Definitions of Hate Speech and Fixed Definitions of Gender Identity  
are Causing Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians  
DATE: 6 October, 2010

### **Working Session 8: Tolerance and Non-Discrimination II**

**Central Recommendation:** That the participating states of the OSCE recognize that overbroad definitions of hate speech coupled with fixed definitions of gender identity are causing intolerance and discrimination against Christians seeking to become psychologists thereby limiting the psychological resources for men and women with unwanted same-sex attractions to find therapists equipped to help them.

In March of 2009 Julea Ward was expelled from the graduate counseling program at Eastern Michigan University for not affirming that homosexuality was morally acceptable. Miss Ward was assigned a potential client seeking assistance regarding a homosexual relationship. Recognizing her religious beliefs prevented her from affirming the client's request, she consulted her supervisor who advised her to reassign the potential client to different counselor. Miss Ward was then informed she could not stay in the Eastern Michigan University counseling program unless she agreed to undergo a remediation program. The goal of this program was to change Miss Ward's Christian belief system regarding homosexuality. The expulsion of Miss Ward was upheld in court due a speech code at Eastern Michigan University which prohibits discrimination against sexual orientation. In July of this year, 2010, Jennifer Keeton, a counseling student at Augusta State University in Augusta, Georgia, was told that her Christian beliefs are unethical and incompatible with the prevailing views of her counseling professions. She now faces the same legal battle as Miss Ward.

There are many men and women whose same-sex attractions are unwanted and not the content of their gender identity. In other words, they do not self identify as gay or lesbian. For some people, unwanted same-sex attractions can, with proper pastoral care or psychological treatment, effectively be resisted and change. By dismissing graduate psychology students who do not hold to popular and fixed views on gay and lesbian gender identity, the number of skilled psychologists equipped to help men and women with unwanted same sex attractions will be diminished. Therefore the human rights of two groups of people are at stake. The rights of Christian graduate students in psychology to follow their conscience and the rights of people with unwanted same-sex attractions to receive treatment from therapists who hold to their same convictions.