

Statement by Mrs. Snezana Trkulja, Member of the Serbian Delegation at the
Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Session – Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including combating racism,
xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance on religious grounds

Warsaw, 30 September 2014

Mr. Moderator,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you on measures adopted in the Republic of Serbia in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination.

Strategy for the prevention of and protection against discrimination, which has been adopted in 2013, represents first strategic document containing measures for improvement of position of most vulnerable groups, such as women, children, members of national minorities, in particular the Roma, LGBT persons, members of religious communities and religious groups, disabled persons, old people, refugees, internally displaced persons and members of other endangered migrant groups, as well as persons whereof health condition can be a basis for discrimination.

I would like to emphasize that this Strategy is of particular importance since it was prepared by representatives of relevant civil society organisation and confirmed by Government of Serbia. Also, it represents first national document specifically dealing with protection against non-discrimination of LGBT population.

In terms of practical measures for promotion of tolerance, project "**Implementation of Anti-Discriminatory Policies in the Republic of Serbia**", financed by the European Union, is underway. The aim of this project is to increase the capacity of the institutions dealing with the non-discrimination, including the Office for Human and Minority Rights and the Commissioner for the protection of equality. In that context, various types of trainings in the field of anti-

discrimination and equality were organised for state and municipal officers, as well as for civil servants, judges, prosecutors, police officers, journalists and activists of civil society organisations. Also, series of round tables on how to prevent and combat hate speech in the form of graffiti took place in 11 local self-governments.

Having in mind the role of police in identifying and apprehending perpetrators of hate graffiti offences, special educational seminar for police was organised focusing on increased competences of police officers on local level.

Thank you Mr. Moderator.