



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM
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**2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Working Session 2 – Tolerance and non-discrimination II
Warsaw, 24 September 2013**

Thank you Madam Moderator,

Today's presentations emphasize yet again that Muslims are being discriminated against and harassed on a daily basis in some parts of the OSCE area. The concerns expressed by civil society regarding the phenomenon of Islamophobia in Europe and the rate by which cases of anti-Muslim prejudice increase from year to year is particularly alarming.

We had enumerated a number of recommendations to participating States as well as to our Organization and its institutions at the High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination convened in Tirana in May of this year. I will be circulating these recommendations once again for an easy reference. Given the grave picture presented to us today about the situation on the ground, particularly in view of the fact that Islamophobia is on the rise despite all the appeals and warnings issued in numerous platforms such as this one, we believe those recommendations are more relevant than ever and urgently needed for consideration and adoption for action.

Thank you.

Recommendations made by Turkey at the High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination held in Tirana on 21-22 May 2013

- Hostility and hate crimes against Muslims have had a serious impact on the sense of security among Muslim communities. We call on all participating States to take the necessary legal, administrative and educational measures to combat manifestations of anti-Muslim sentiment, including stereotypes and prejudice against Muslims.
- Participating States should intensify their exchange of best practices in combating intolerance and discrimination towards Muslims, including examples of good cooperation between Muslim communities and law enforcement officers in combating hate crimes against members of these communities.
- Participating States should step up their efforts in monitoring and reporting on hate crimes, including a more effective partnering with civil society as well as the collection of disaggregated data in order to shed more light on the extent of manifestations of hostility towards Muslims.
- Participating States should develop community projects that aim to provide around-the-clock support to victims of anti-Muslim hate crimes; participating States should also take measures to thoroughly address forms of intolerance and discrimination other than hate crimes experienced by Muslim communities.

- Participating States should develop training programs on Islamophobia for law enforcement officers, other public officials, as well as teachers, clergy and imams, requesting ODIHR to provide the necessary support if required.
- Participating States should support and increase funding for the work of the ODIHR and the three Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on combating intolerance and discrimination.
- Participating States should make better use of ODIHR's capacity to raise awareness on intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia. Additional activities can be proposed by ODIHR, within its current tasking, to tackle issues going beyond those addressed by current programs. ODIHR has the potential to do more, if provided with more resources.
- Participating States should initiate increased cooperation to address intolerant public discourse concerning Muslims, including by political leaders, in the media, and on the internet. In addition, ODIHR and the Representative on Freedom of the Media should enhance their collaboration in addressing anti-Muslim media activities, biased reporting and negative stereotyping.
- Participating States should consider possible avenues of cooperation and coordination in countering the growing cohesion and networking of across the OSCE area of groups promoting an Islamophobic agenda.