

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2019
Working Session 15 – Statement by the Delegation of Canada, delivered by Counsellor Daniel
Barbarie, Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Moderator,

Canada offers the following recommendations:

- 1) That all participating States use disaggregated data when compiling hate crime data, recognizing the critical importance of disaggregated data to an effective approach to countering hate crime;
- 2) That participating States make use of both police-reported hate crime data as well as non-governmental information, acknowledging that not all hate crimes are reported to police, and that civil society has a key role to play in combatting hate crimes;

Moderator,

Hate crimes in Canada make up approximately 0.1% of crimes reported to the police, but recent trends are a cause for greater vigilance. In 2018, police reported 1,798 criminal incidents in Canada that were motivated by hate. While this number is a decrease of 13% over the high of 2017, it still represents an upward trend seen in bias-motivated crime in Canada since 2014. Engagement with communities and people with lived experiences of discrimination has shown that Black Canadians, Muslims, and Jews, as well as sexual minorities, experience hate crimes disproportionately to other groups. Research also shows that hate crimes targeting sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression were more likely to be violent than those targeting other Canadians.

Police reporting is only one measurement of hate crimes, however. The General Social Survey (GSS) on Canadians' Safety, which is undertaken every five years, collects data based on the

perceptions of individuals as to whether or not a crime occurred, and what the motivation for the crime may have been. In the latest survey in 2014, in 5% of all incidents reported, the victims believed that the incident was motivated by hate. Race was the most common reported motivation at 51% of the total, while sex was 26% and religion 11%.

To counter hate crimes in Canada, a range of governmental and non-governmental initiatives have been undertaken at a national and local level, such as Canada's "Anti-Racism Strategy 2019-2022", which is guided by a vision of Canada where all Canadians benefit from equal access to, and participation in, the economic, cultural, social and political sphere. Many police services in large cities have specialized hate crime units, composed of officers and/or civilians that have special training, in order to support front line officers, conduct hate crime specific investigative work, and educate other police officers and the community. Additionally, a growing number of jurisdictions provide online systems for citizens to report hate crimes or non-criminal hate incidents. Many cities also have local anti-racism or anti-hate committees that work closely with police.

It is critical to recognize that civil society organizations complement governments in combating intolerance and discrimination through the monitoring and reporting of hate crimes. The contribution of non-governmental organizations include the ability of citizens to report hate incidents to an NGO rather than police. NGOs also raise awareness by providing online educational courses for students and workshops for professionals to teach about multiculturalism and human rights. We must continue working with civil society to counter the threat of hate.

Thank you.