



Church of Scientology Hungary

Statement

Working Session 13 - OSCE ODIHR HDIM

Sept. 24, 2019

Distinguished Panel, distinguished Participants,

In the Annotated Agenda of this session there was a question raised:

How are OSCE participating States ensuring the implementation of the OSCE commitments on tolerance and non-discrimination with regard to combating racism, xenophobia, and discrimination, anti-Semitism, intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions?

Being Hungarian it is good that I can say that the Hungarian government is indeed taking measures to combat discrimination in some fields. For example, Prime Minister Orbán proclaimed zero tolerance on anti-Semitism in July 2018 during the visit of the Israeli Prime Minister to Budapest. Then in November last year during the visit of His Excellency Samuel Brownback, United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom the Hungarian Prime Minister again emphasized the importance of freedom of religion. We can also observe the efforts of the Hungarian Government to help persecuted Christians in different zones of the world.

At the same time there are religious minorities who are suffering from overt or covert religious discrimination in Hungary including the Church of Scientology.

OSCE ODIHR invested tremendous effort and did a great job compiling and publishing **Freedom of Religion or Belief and Security Policy Guidance**. Looking through the document one of the most recurring word is dialogue.

We also believe that dialogue between governments and religious denominations could play a crucial role in preventing discrimination and hate.

We would like to ask OSCE participating states to set a good example of religious dialogue between government officials and religious groups in order to raise understanding of different religious groups, including Church of Scientology and other New Religious Movements and Minorities.

Thank you very much!

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