

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working Session 14 – Hate Crime: The participating State’s compliance with the commitments to address hate crimes and the respective role of intergovernmental organizations.

Recommendation to Italy as OSCE State

Thank you madame moderator.

My name is Sara Tanan, I am from Italy and I am a human rights activist.

Dear guests, I have some questions to ask you:

Can you imagine how it feels like to suddenly being punched and kicked by a random person just because you are a Muslim woman wearing the headscarf?

Can you imagine how it feels like being told that your skin color looks like “shit” by your classmates and your teacher not doing anything about it?

Can you imagine how it feels like? Maybe yes.

Do you actually know how it feels like? Probably no, if you have never experienced it.

Let me tell you how it feels like: it sucks. Honestly, it sucks.

Therefore, I demand from the Italian representatives here to urge the Italian government to:

- **Firstly, redefine the existing law on hate crime by including a more specific set of bias and clearly distinguish them based on their legal implications in order to easily recognize the perpetrators and persecute them accordingly.**
- **Secondly, to stick to the commitment made in 2016 to create a database on hate crime incidents as recommended by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance.**
- **Thirdly, to prioritize the adoption of a clear and effective law addressing hate speech on line and off line.**

Finally, and this is a recommendation for all the OSCE States, in order for these policies to be representative of the people they defend, these same people must have a sit at the decision making table. And to be clear, not because they are invited but because belong there. I belong here.

Warsaw, 25/09/2019

Sara Tanan, Human Rights Activist