



HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION Meeting (HDIM)
Warsaw, Poland
September 18, 2018

WORKING SESSION 12 MIGRANT WORKERS, THE INTEGRATION OF LEGAL MIGRANTS

Thank you Mr. Moderator. Distinguished attendees, ladies and gentlemen.

There is a difference between migrant workers and other migrant streams, the latter stemming from the large influx of migrants which have flooded into Europe in response to the Syrian conflict. My approach references problems that impede the goals of the OSCE in implementing human rights as it applies to integration of legal migrants.

The rise of illegal migrants, ISIS infiltration of the refugee stream, migrants from ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; plus from Africa have also compounded the problem which has lead to crisis.

The resettlement and integration needs of migrants must be balanced with the needs of host societies and their ability to even handle the vast migrant influx.

I raised the issue yesterday about Canada and M 103 which constitutes an erosion of free speech. There are those who flippantly argue that it is not legislation; but it was indeed a motion which forms the framework for possible future legislation and more importantly, M103 was strong enough to lead to a follow-up document titled: *“Taking Action Against Systemic Racism and Religious Discrimination Including Islamophobia”*. As I indicated yesterday, it aims to “monitor citizens for compliance, and also: promote its version of media literacy with respect to cultural and interfaith awareness, including what it defines as “fake news” and “hate speech”. This includes cracking down on what it deems to be “far right” groups.

Such a threat to freedom of expression creates an unsettling climate in the efforts toward pluralism, and migrant integration, particularly when Canada’s prime minister referenced to the opposition Conservatives as “Islamophobic” for querying his open invitation to all immigrants including ISIS. Mr. Trudeau expressed that ISIS jihadists can be a “powerful voice for de-radicalization”—a “voice” that has committed the worst human rights abuses imaginable.

I would like to recommend that there be reforms in the immigration and refugee process to better serve all parties involved and to safeguard human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law.

1. That while efforts continue to be made to support migrant needs, consideration of the human rights of citizens in host societies must be equally considered in a whole of society approach.
2. That the weaponizing of words like “islamophobia”, “anti-immigrant” be discouraged and shunned.
3. That the OSCE aim to be a leader in distinguishing between needy refugees, economic migrants and unfriendly migrants who are unwilling to integrate.

Thank you.