



## **HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION Meeting (HDIM)**

**Warsaw, Poland**

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### **WORKING SESSION 13 RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS**

Thank you Moderator, distinguished attendees, ladies and gentlemen.

I have noted that the OSCE aims to lead and to promote the protection of the rights of migrants, refugees, displaced persons in the promotion of integration.

This is key, but in order to promote something, we need to have something to promote. The question becomes: what are we promoting? Is it the integration of migrants into our fine democracies, where equal rights for all, freedom of religion, human rights, and freedom of expression are enshrined? Or are we instead promoting a message that the host societies of Europe, the Americas and other democracies be made to integrate into the cultural practices and ideological mores of migrants in order to make them feel welcome? To not lead by example and order undermines the finest system of free democratic societies.

The rights of migrants to integrate should be protected by a logical continuance of the UN Declaration of Human Rights enshrined in our democracy; but also there is a need to uphold our own leadership in human rights. This includes the rejection of cultural practices that are inconsistent with human rights. This rejection certainly does not translate into the rejection of an individual.

I would like to recommend that the OSCE:

1. Be leaders in upholding the rights of citizens in their free democratic societies; their rights to safety, freedom and tolerance; balanced with the human rights of incoming migrants to integrate peacefully.
2. That the OSCE advance the same expectation of responsibility from migrants as it does from the citizens of host societies.
3. That the OSCE recognize that there are cultures being imported into host societies through migration that bring practices with them that should not be tolerated when we consider genuine advocacy for all human rights.

Thank you