

SHDM 14-15 April 2016

ENGLISH only

Joint Recommendations

by

"Giuseppe Dossetti " Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom, Observatory On Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians, Novae Terrae Foundation, CitizenGO Foundation, Hatze Oir, ADF International

To the Participating States

Participating States are urged to:

- promote a dialogue between the representatives of the religious communities that are building a new place of worship and the religious communities historically present in the places in order to foster a climate of mutual tolerance and respect between believers of different communities;
- guarantee conscientious objection not only to compulsory military service but also in relation to all morally sensitive questions;
- guarantee the right to wear religious symbols and attire in public spaces, which is encompassed by freedom of religion or belief;
- foster the participation of religious communities in public life and welcome the religious leaders' interventions in the public debate;
- provide disaggregated data on hate crimes, paying more attention to the hate crimes against Christians – also where they are majority – in the questionnaire collecting data from national data collection point;
- compile and publish a national report on hate crimes;
- request the assistance of the OSCE/ODIHR in order to implement TACHLE and PAHCT at national level;
- develop training programs on hate crimes for public officials and law enforcement agencies operating at a local level;
- adopt a national action plan in order to prevent and respond to hate crimes.

To the Chairmanship-in-Office

The Chairmanship-in-Office is urged to:

- appoint a fourth Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against the members of other religious communities and against Roma and Sinti, in order to focus one Personal Representative's mandate on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians;
- consult closely with the Personal Representatives and support their work.

To the Personal Representatives of the Chairmanship-in-Office

The Personal Representatives of the Chairmanship-in-Office are called upon to:

- focus on, and adopt a standardized approach to, country visits and subsequent reports;

- intervene when incidents do occur, through public statements and engagement with authorities of relevant participating States.

To the OSCE/ODIHR

The OSCE/ODIHR is called upon to:

- raise awareness on the positive contribution of religions to the building and the well-being of our democratic societies;
- develop Guidelines for educators on countering intolerance and discrimination against Christians;
- develop and strengthen capacity building activities with regard to the protection of religious properties, including the Christian ones;
- train law enforcement agencies, media and civil society to consider carefully also the hate crimes perpetrated against majority groups.

To the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media

The OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media is called upon to:

- provide – in close cooperation with the OSCE-ODIHR and the Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief – guidelines for voluntary professional standards and self-regulation of the media aimed to:
 - promote knowledge and understanding of religions,
 - give a fair and accurate account of religious beliefs, and
 - ensure that members of religious communities are given the chance to express their views.