

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
WORKING SESSION 8
Tolerance and non-discrimination

September 15, 2017

As delivered by

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Mme Moderator,

We agree with the assumption of annotated agenda that hate crime is a message to the society. In this sense hate crimes come close to terrorism since both of these crimes aim at spreading fears and mobilizing certain groups against common enemy which they single out by their violent actions.

That being said, let me also stress that hate crimes come in different scope and entail different security threats and it is important to have differentiated approach both in deconstructing motives of hate crimes and addressing needs of victims.

We think that the OSCE should play particular attention to those hate crimes which may seriously endanger peace and security and create environment of large scale identity based violence.

OSCE commitments particularly those undertaken in Athens in 2009 provides an important framework for fighting hate crimes. It puts forward the responsibility of participating states in deconstructing hate narratives and motivation by calling on all participating states to promptly investigate hate crimes and ensure that the motives of those convicted of hate crimes are acknowledged and publicly condemned by the relevant authorities and by political leadership.

Unfortunately there have been notable hate crimes in the OSCE along with notable breaches of this commitment as certain political leadership not merely justified but glorified hate crimes.

In this regard, strong involvement of the ODIHR in raising awareness on notable hate crimes and inviting participating states and their political leadership to take actions along with their OSCE commitments is essential.

While acknowledging systematic work of the ODIHR in fighting hate crimes, we also see a need of better division of labour with the Council of Europe ECRI in order to put more efforts in addressing high profile and notable hate crimes in the OSCE area.

Thank you.