



# ORDO IURIS

INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL CULTURE

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## HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2019 OSCE

Ordo Iuris Center for Religious Freedom welcomes OSCE efforts to recognise growing intolerance and discrimination against Christians in Europe. Center for Religious Freedom would like to brought to attention this emerging threat and hostility towards this religious group and its religious freedom throughout the world.

According to The Pew Research Center, Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world. Christians are reporting more and more harassment or discrimination by authorities or fellow citizens. Research carried out by Pew Research Center shows that in 2014 harassment against Christians took place in 108 countries around the world, in 2015 - in 128 countries, and in 2016 hostility towards Christians already affected 144 countries. The incidents involved included legal discrimination, verbal assault, physical attacks, arrests and destruction of places of worship.

Unfortunately, the fact that Christians are the group that suffers the biggest persecution in the world is also confirmed by other international reports. The Open Doors report's data shows that on average every month in the world: 345 Christians are being killed for reasons related to faith, 105 churches and Christian buildings are burned or vandalised, 219 Christians are either detained without trial, arrested, convicted or imprisoned. With all this in mind, it seems perfectly legitimate to say that the persecution of Christians around the world has never stopped.

The media and governments ignore the scale of the christianophobia, which, despite their silence, is becoming more and more visible and intensifies, also in Europe.

This is true that hardly any media has reported that as many as 11 churches have burned down in France since February 2019, and in the entire previous 2018, more than 800 were destroyed or desecrated, according to the French Ministry of Interior. In 2019 alone there were attacks on church property in at least four cities, Nîmes, Lavaur, Houilles and Dijon. In February, the cathedral of Saint Alan was attacked, in March the interiors of the church of Saint Nicholas in Houilles and a church of Saint-Sulpice in Paris were desecrated, which is the second largest temple after the Notre Dame Cathedral. Hardly anyone of us heard about these events.

Also a very dangerous form of discrimination and intolerance towards Christians is the aggressive secularism, which has been present in Europe for many years, and which is increasingly invading various spheres of lives of Christians, previously covered by freedom, most often associated with living according to one's religious conviction in a workplace, schools or public space, emanating in exercising a freedom of conscience clause that now are tend to be put in question.

Also, hostility of radical far-left organizations that manifests itself in publishing and disseminating graphics and content that are offensive to Christians becomes more popular phenomena.

We have been submitting an annual report to the OSCE for five years, showing that at least several dozen cases of hate crimes against Christians occur in Poland every year. Unfortunately, we know that it happens more often. This is confirmed by the research of the Institute of Statistics of the Catholic Church carried out in 2012-2014, which showed that during these two years in Poland there were on average 1000 incidents of hostility towards Christians - priests, faithful and places of worship.

We must be aware of this and demand respect for the religious freedom of Christians in Europe.



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