

**Human Dimension Implementation Meeting****Warsaw, 16-27 September 2019****GREECE****RIGHT OF REPLY****Working session 14 (specifically selected topic): Hate crime**

Following up on a NGO statement made earlier, I would like to point out that in the recent past some extremist groups in my country have attempted to use both the financial and the unprecedented migration and refugee crises as a pretext for committing despicable criminal acts and for advancing a heinous political agenda. However, both our institutions and the Greek people have successfully resisted such efforts. We have put in place over the years a robust legislative, judicial and operational framework against racism and hate crimes, also in cooperation with ODIHR. Leaders and members of the extremist Golden Dawn party were brought to justice; their trial is now reaching its final stage. In the recent elections, held last July, that party failed to enter Parliament. Furthermore, the unparalleled influx of migrants and refugees has not led to a rise of anti-foreigner sentiment among the Greek population. These are positive developments which encourage us in strengthening our efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination and hate crimes.